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# NEW ROOTS

Newsletter of the  
Massachusetts Office  
of Refugee Resettlement  
Vol. 1, # 1 March 1985

UMASS/AMHERST



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## NOTE TO READERS:

*This is the first issue of our newsletter devoted to refugee topics and programs. We are producing it with the purpose and hope that it will serve as a means of communication among the many individuals and organizations who are helping refugees to build new lives here in Massachusetts.*

*Since 1975, we have received nearly 23,000 persons into the Commonwealth as refugees. Having fled their homelands, most of them have suffered great losses and have arrived here with many needs. More importantly, however, they bring with them impressive strengths and abilities, and the will to apply these to their new home communities.*

*It is the challenge and commitment of the Mass. Office of Refugee Resettlement to work with these new neighbors and with the growing network of cooperating agencies, groups, and individuals to promote in every way possible the development of these "new roots" in our state.*

Daniel M. Lam  
State Refugee Coordinator

## Refugee leaders complete training --

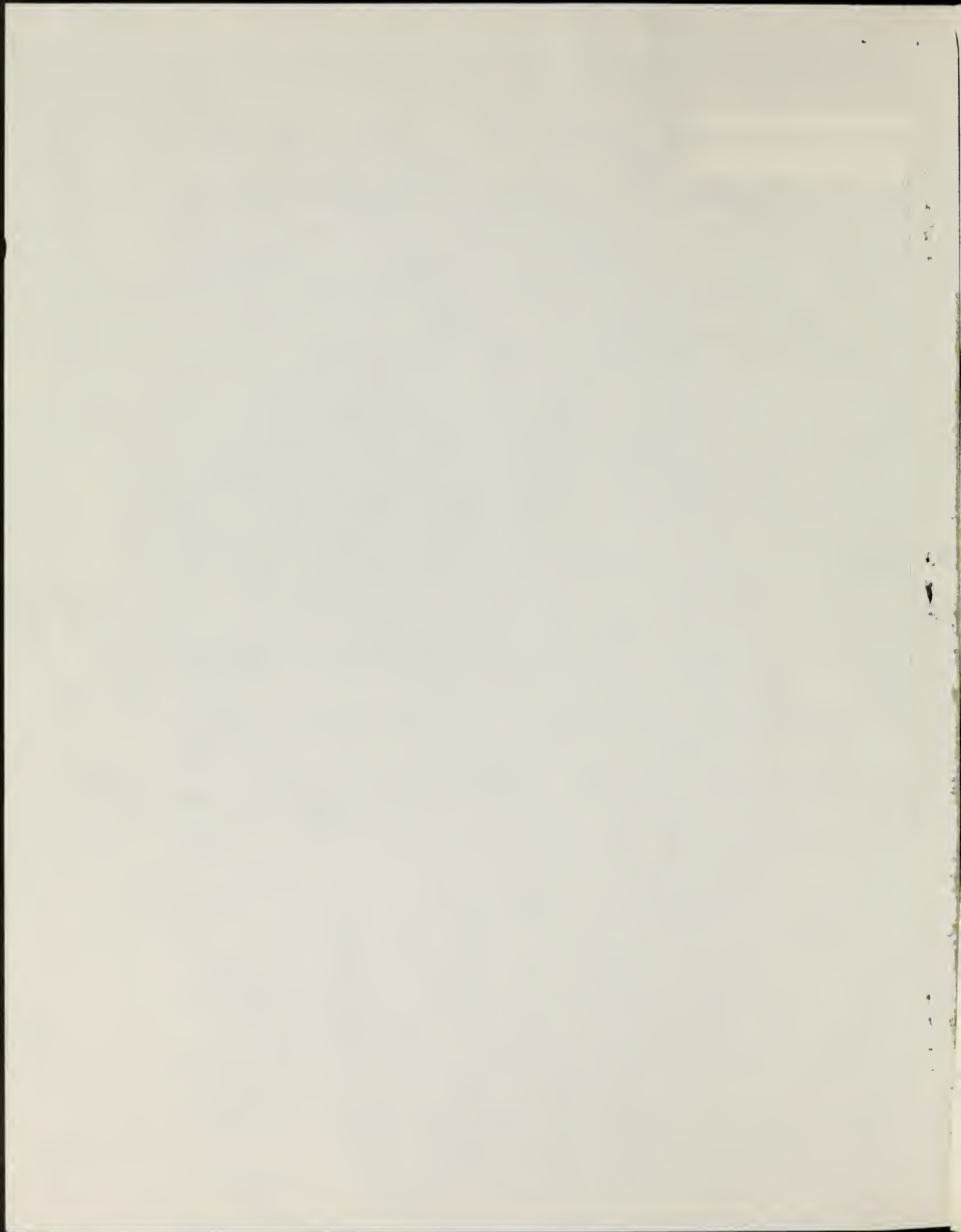
### 200 attend graduation ceremony with governor

On February 4th, Governor Michael S. Dukakis and his wife Kitty joined members of the refugee community, including representatives of Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Haitian, and Ethiopian groups, to congratulate 32 graduates of a special leadership training course designed to help refugees establish their own self-help, non-profit organizations. Kitty Dukakis, who had recently returned from an eight-day fact-finding tour of refugee camps in Thailand, presented certificates to the graduates and congratulated them on their courage and determination.

"During a refugee's first months in this country, we do a lot to help meet the immediate, practical needs such as learning the language obtaining food, shelter, a job, and medical assistance," Dukakis said. "It is time to take the next step -- to look beyond those immediate survival needs and help refugees create their own organizations, obtain their own funding, and develop their own base of support."

During the training, graduates learned how to determine refugee needs in their own communities, analyze data, establish tax-exempt corporations, and apply for funds.

The four-month leadership training program was federally funded through the Department of Public Welfare Office of Refugee Resettlement, and conducted by the Community Training and Assistance Center of Boston.



## New State Advisory Council forms

In the Fall of 1984, Governor Dukakis appointed a new 28-member council to advise him on all matters relevant to refugee resettlement in the state. The Governor's Advisory Council on Refugee Resettlement was first mandated by law in the Refugee Act of 1980. Far from being limited to an advisory role, however, members of the Governor's Advisory Council are actively involved with refugee programs across the state.

Co-chaired by Reverend William Erat and Mrs. Katharine Rodger, the Governor's Advisory Council is strongly committed to the process of refugee resettlement. Rev. Erat has actively advocated on behalf of refugee children for many years while Mrs. Rodger is former Executive Director of the International Institute in Lawrence. Each year the Governor appoints members of the Council based on recommendations of the community.

The Governor's Advisory Council consists of four on-going Task Forces: Human Resources; Employment and Economic Development; Community Relations; and Mutual Assistance Associations. Council members also participate in various ad-hoc work groups on issues such as child care, mental health, and education as specific needs arise.

### Governor's Advisory Council On Refugee Resettlement

MEMBERS 1984-85

#### Co-Chairs:

Reverend William Erat  
Lutheran Service Assoc.  
Framingham

Mrs. Katharine Rodger  
International Institute  
of Lawrence

#### Community Relations Task Force:

Reverend Nicholas Granitsas  
First Congregational Church  
Revere

Mr. Martin Gopen  
Fair Housing Commission  
Boston

Reverend Philip McNamara  
Catholic Charities of  
Worcester

Mr. Stan Nikkel  
Urbanistics Foundation  
Braintree

Ms. Nancy Robb  
Catholic Charitable Bureau  
Boston

#### Employment and Economic Development Task Force:

Mr. Domenic Bozzotto  
Local 26, AFL-CIO

Mr. Daniel Canavan  
New England Shrimp Company  
Malden

Mr. Stanley Chao  
Advanced Electronics  
Boston

Mr. Tom Ford  
Employment Connections  
Chelsea

Mr. Edward Hall  
Hall, Inc.

#### Human Resources Task Force:

Ms. Kim Lan Bloom  
Vietnamese Refugee Assoc.  
of Massachusetts

Ms. Kathleen Lique  
Area Health Education Ctr.  
Boston University

Mr. James Lavelle  
Indochinese Psychiatry  
Clinic, Brighton Marine  
Public Health Center

Ms. Holly Lockwood  
Metropolitan Indochinese  
Children's and Adolescent  
Services, Boston

Ms. Moira Lucey  
International Institute  
of Boston

Ms. Carol Montanari  
Catholic Charities of  
Springfield

Ms. Maria Nguyen  
Bilingual Educator

#### Mutual Assistance Association Task Force:

Mr. Garry Daphnis  
Haitian Bilingual Counselor

Mr. Khamphouang Douangmany  
Laotian Community

Mrs. Kitty Dukakis  
Council Member At Large

Ms. Olga Dummott  
Cuban Community

Mr. Kiet Mac  
Massachusetts Association  
of Chinese from Indochina

Mr. Mekonnen Meshesha  
Ethiopian Community

Dr. Hai B. Pho  
Indochinese Refugee Founda-  
tion, Lowell

Mr. Ly Y  
Cambodian Community of Mass.

Mr. Ter Yang  
Hmong Community

*Continued on Page 7*





## Innovative training program underway to build refugee community organizations

The Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement (MORR) and the Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC) are currently collaborating on an organizational training program for Massachusetts' refugees. This is a unique public/private partnership on behalf of refugee groups for the Department of Public Welfare, MORR's umbrella agency.

Although MORR devotes most of its resources to meeting the immediate survival needs of refugees during their initial months here, MORR recognizes that as refugees begin to integrate into American society, many problems remain which transcend MORR's mandate. For that reason, MORR is committed to support the development of refugee-run community organizations that will address continuing needs for career advancement, cultural preservation, educational opportunities, and improvement in living conditions.

With this in mind, MORR has funded CTAC to provide leadership training for refugee Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs). Each MAA has a broad membership among their ethnic group in the Greater Boston area. Each of these refugee-run organizations seeks to serve its members in many spheres,

including cultural heritage, crisis help, translation service, tutoring in English and other subjects, help in arranging funerals, and celebrations of ethnic holidays.

The training project is assisting refugee and entrant mutual assistance associations in developing organizational skills that are both basic and vital. It is being implemented concurrently in Boston and Lowell -- reaching Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Haitian, and Ethiopian communities.

In February, MORR and CTAC completed a four-month pilot program that served between two and six principal leaders from 14 different refugee associations. The trainees attended 14 weekly three-hour training sessions in addition to spending many hours meeting with other members of their association, interviewing fellow refugees, compiling and analyzing the results of these interviews, and meeting with various service agencies.

The pilot program included four major areas of training: (a) conducting a needs assessment that included direct surveys of 1,500 refugees and entrants; (b) identifying and assessing relevant resources; (c) learning the basics of starting and developing organizational plans; and (d) developing proposal-writing skills.



Kitty Dukakis presents diploma to refugee community leader at MAA Training Program graduation as the Governor offers congratulations. (Photo: Sam Ogden)

The refugee groups participating in this project face critical problems. Most of their members have minimal incomes and limited opportunities to acquire English language skills. Both job and housing opportunities are restricted and frequently exploitative. Against this myriad of problems, the need to strengthen the capacities of refugee groups is dramatic.

Based on the escalating needs of these groups and the distinct success of the initial four-month training program, MORR and CTAC are developing a more extensive two-year survival skills program that will lay the foundation for refugees to become full participants in the life and work of Massachusetts.



## Advocacy for refugees in border camps

On January 10th, Kitty Dukakis left Boston for an eight-day fact-finding tour of refugee camps in Thailand. Nearly 100 people, including the Governor, the State Refugee Coordinator Dr. Dan Clavin, and many members of the Greater Boston Cambodian community were on hand to wish her well at Logan Airport.

The Governor's wife carried detailed information given her by Cambodian immigrants, now Massachusetts residents, who had either direct contact with close relatives in Southeast Asia or had been denied information. "I hope," she said upon leaving, "is to help expedite reunification of these families, to help heal the grief that death, destruction and separation have brought them."

Among the many tragic stories of family separation brought to her attention was one involving Sarom Taing, a 26-year old electronic technician and former Cambodian refugee now living in Springfield. Ms. Taing came to the U.S. in 1981 after having seen most of her family killed.

For several years Ms. Taing sought word of the three brothers and sisters she thought were still alive. In October she learned that her brother, Hout Pich, was alive and held in a camp. She wrote a letter to his sister and on October 19, 1984, he wrote back, "Right now your brother is suffering. Sister! You cannot see my sad struggle! Just ask you to help me."

When Kitty Dukakis returned to Massachusetts from her trip, she reported at a January 23rd press conference that she had interviewed approximately 150 Khmer refugees whose relatives now live in the Commonwealth. The U.S. State Department has rejected nearly all of their requests to immigrate to the United States, she added.

"We estimate that the 6500 Cambodian refugees in Massachusetts have 1200 close relatives in Thailand," she observed.

In Khao-I-Dang (KID) camp, Dukakis found Sarom Taing's 17-year old brother, and successfully persuaded the U.S. ambassador to intercede in an effort to allow the teenage boy to join his sister in Massachusetts.

On January 31 in Amherst, Kitty Dukakis met with more than 100 members of the Cambodian community in Western Mass. to report on her trip. On February 5th, she spoke to a similar audience of Cambodians in Boston Chinatown.

She reflected: "I met with many of your relatives at KID, and although we are pained that so many have been rejected, we are hopeful that changes will occur which will make the interview process fairer. At the same time, I hope a large percentage of those who have been rejected will have their cases re-opened and accepted for reunification with you. In addition to those Khmer who have been interviewed and rejected, there are many at KID who are undocumented or illegal. We hope very soon to have their status changed so that those with close relatives in this country can be reunited."

Describing the meeting with Hout Pich, she recalled: "I'm not sure I've ever been as happy to meet someone as I was Sarom Taing's brother. He is small and very sad. The interpreter helped and I asked Pich to speak into a tape recorder for messages to his sister."

"Pich walked with us around the evacuation site. It was a devastating experience -- many living in ditches to escape shelling. I asked how far away the shelling was, and he said about one mile. Convinced we were not in any real danger we stayed. Our visit at Site One lasted about 1½ hours, and I had to struggle with strong emotion as I said goodbye to Pich, not knowing if I'd have success convincing Ambassador Dean to intercede on his behalf."

"Hout Pich is symbolic and therefore his case is important. He represents a limited number of people at the border who have close relatives in the United States and who are at present not being considered for resettlement in third countries. Our hope is that the process of reunification will begin soon for this group."

*(Ed. note: Pich arrived in Boston on February 20th.)*

As the emotional gathering drew to a close, Kitty Dukakis concluded, "We will continue to meet in Washington to push for humanitarian changes in processing, positive action for border cases, moving the children quickly, and finally asking that ceiling numbers remain the same through fiscal year 1986-87 so that your relatives can join you here. I promise that I will continue with others to work to see your families reunited."



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### **U.N. High Commissioner visits Boston -- meets with members of refugee service groups**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Poul Hartling, visited Massachusetts briefly in November to deliver a speech at Harvard University. He also gave several media interviews and met with individuals active in resettlement efforts in the Commonwealth.

On his first day, Mr. Hartling gave the inaugural presentation of the Human Rights Speaker Series at Harvard Law School. His topic was "The Refugee Problem Worldwide: The Difficult Search for Durable Solutions". In his remarks he described his agency's mandate to protect refugees and to seek lasting solutions to their dislocation. The refugee population he serves is defined by international convention: people who have left their own country out of fear of persecution.

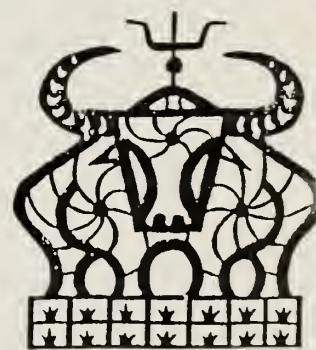
The U.N.H.C.R. was established in 1951 in the aftermath of World War II. At the time, its work was hoped to be accomplished within three years. Today, the need continues with a worldwide refugee population of nearly 10 million. The agency is currently active in 18 countries. The High Commissioner represents refugee interests as a global 'Ambassador of Refugees' before the many governments involved.

There are many challenges facing the U.N.H.C.R. today. Resources are becoming more scarce. The physical safety of refugees and the 'Right of Asylum' itself are often threatened. Because many refugee situations are now found in poorer nations, development assistance is more inter-related with refugee aid. And in cases such as Southeast Asia and Central America, conditions do not now exist for 'durable solutions' such as voluntary repatriation, settlement in the country of first asylum, or resettlement to another nation.

On his second day here, the High Commissioner met at the Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement with representatives of the Governor's Advisory Council and other groups concerned with the well-being of refugees. During this informal exchange Mr. Hartling inquired about the experiences of refugees in the State. He noted that he rarely learns of the new lives that refugees establish because his agency's contact usually ends when they leave U.N.H.C.R. camps for resettlement. In addition to hearing accounts of the process and results of resettlement here, Mr. Hartling also responded to questions about conditions in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

At the meeting's conclusion the High Commissioner expressed his appreciation for the work and commitment of refugee service communities in Massachusetts. He noted that those efforts here and elsewhere are critical to his agency's success. Hartling concluded by urging those involved to share views with their political officials and fellow citizens.

The High Commissioner will return to the U.S. to present his Annual Report to the United Nations General Assembly. Mr. Hartling was elected to his office by the General Assembly in 1977 and re-elected in 1982. He formerly served as Prime Minister of Denmark.



**NEW ROOTS**

wishes its readers  
a happy and prosperous  
Lunar New Year!



# TRENDS

## REFUGEE ARRIVALS IN MASSACHUSETTS

### BY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP

(Federal Fiscal Year 1984)

COUNTRY	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Kampuchea	1,181	55.8
Vietnam	626	29.6
Laos	75	3.6
SUBTOTAL	1,882	89.0%
Czechoslovakia	33	1.5
Poland	44	2.1
USSR	19	0.9
Ethiopia	66	3.1
Iran	35	1.7
Romania	19	0.9
Afganistan	10	0.5
Hungary	5	0.2
Other	2	0.1
SUBTOTAL	233	11.0%
Unknown	7	
TOTAL	2,122	100%

Source: ORR Monthly Data Reports.

**NEW ROOTS** will regularly publish data on statistical trends and developments of the refugee population in Massachusetts that may be of general interest.

## CUMULATIVE REFUGEE POPULATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

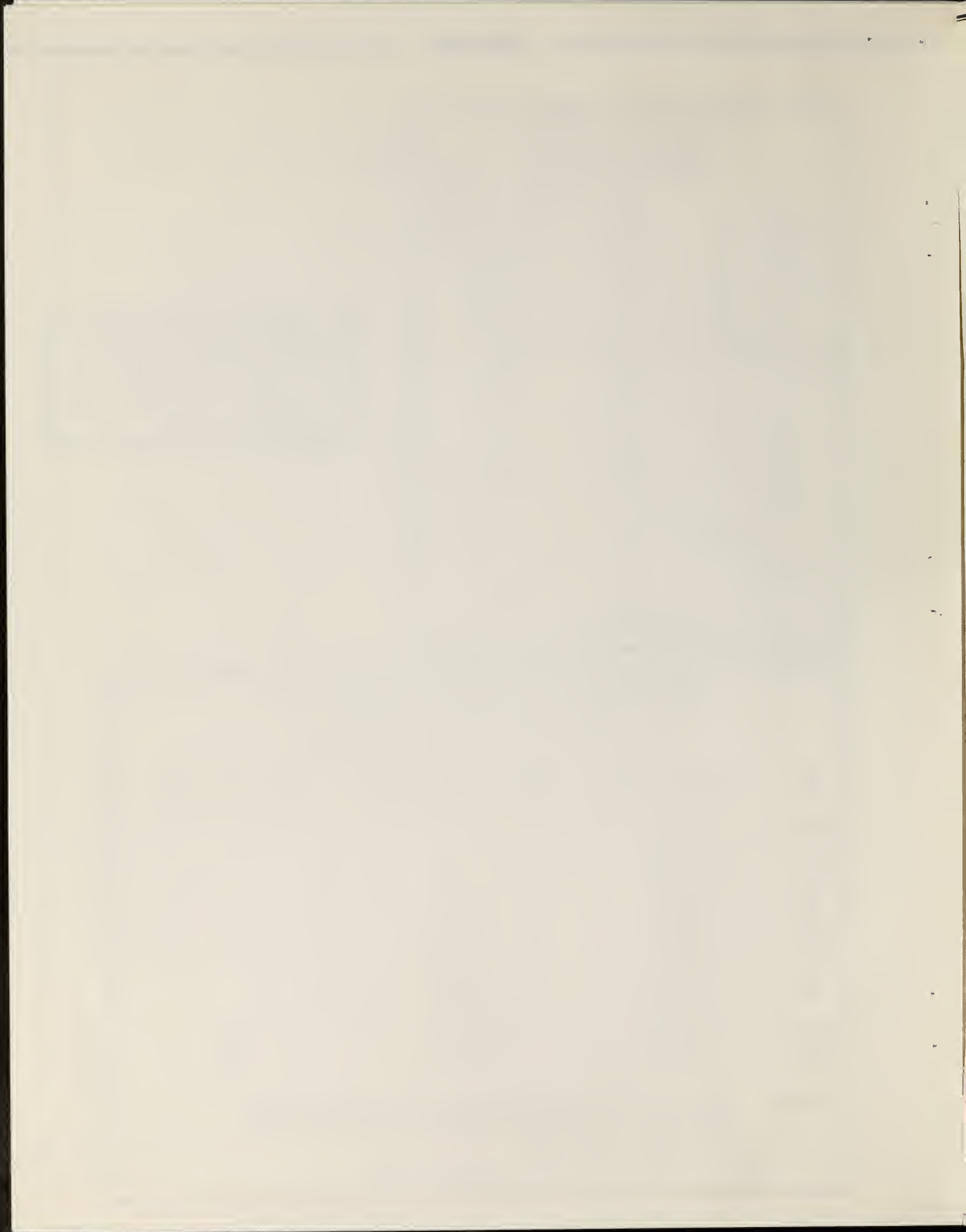
Federal Fiscal Years 1976-1984

(updated through 1st quarter of FFY 1985)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SOUTHEAST ASIAN</u>	<u>EAST EUROPEAN &amp; SOVIET</u>	<u>NEAR EAST &amp; OTHER</u>
1976	1,200		
1977	1,400		
1978	1,600		
1979	2,500		
1980	6,500	864	
1981	10,200	1,400	
1982	12,000	1,550	
1983 *	15,400	1,900	116
1984 **	19,900	2,100	200

Sources: \*Report to the Congress: Refugee Resettlement Program, U.S. Dep't of Health and Human Services, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984.

\*\* ORR Monthly Data Reports, December 1984.





Continued from Page 1  
New State Advisory Council

## EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

- Charles. M. Atkins  
Commissioner, Department  
of Public Welfare
- James Callahan  
Commissioner, Department  
of Mental Health
- Kristen Demong  
Director, Division  
Employment Security
- Catherine Dunham  
Director, Office of Human  
Resources
- Gerard T. Indelicato  
Special Assistant to the  
Governor for Educative  
Affairs
- Philip Johnston  
Secretary, Executive Office  
of Human Services
- Daniel M. Lam  
State Coordinator, Mass  
Office of Refugee Resettle-  
ment
- Marie Matava  
Commissioner, Department  
of Social Services
- Delores Mitchell  
Chair, Welfare Advisory  
Board
- Bailus J. Walker  
Commissioner, Department  
of Public Health



Guests and graduates listen to speaker at MAA leadership training graduation ceremony held at Keith Auditorium, St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Brighton. 200 attended. (photo: Sam Ogden)

## Upcoming Events

### SECOND ANNUAL

#### SOUTHEAST ASIAN CONFERENCE

Wednesday, March 20, 1985  
Biltmore Plaza Hotel  
Providence, Rhode Island  
8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Including: Keynote Address by Dr. Daniel Lam, State Coordinator, Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement; Panel Discussion on "Critical Issues in New England's Southeast Asian Community"; and workshops.

Information: MORR, 727-7888.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING FROM THE ASIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Saturday, March 30, 1985  
Boston Children's Museum  
300 Congress Street  
Boston, Massachusetts  
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A one-day conference of workshops on Asian immigration history, the Japanese Internment, Boston Asian community, and Stereotypes and cultural values. Sponsored by the Asian American Resource Workshop for teachers and social service agency staff.

Information: AARW, 426-5313.

### NEW ROOTS

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Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement  
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Michael S. Dukakis, Governor  
Charles M. Atkins, Commissioner  
Daniel M. Lam, Refugee Coordinator

Editor/Producer  
Peter Kiang

Coordinator  
Ed Crotty



## RESOURCES

The following agencies have been contracted by MORR to provide ESL/Employment and/or Case Management Services during 1984-85:

ACTION FOR BOSTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
Jack Cumisky  
178 Tremont Street  
Boston, MA 02111  
Tel: 357-6000

CATHOLIC CHARITIES/BOSTON  
Maureen O'Brien  
150 Causeway Street  
Boston, MA 02114  
Tel: 723-9078

CATHOLIC CHARITIES/WORCESTER  
Connie Lynch  
15 Ripley Street  
Worcester, MA 01610  
Tel: 798-0191

CHINESE AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
Greg Miller  
90 Tyler Street  
Boston, MA 02111  
Tel: 426-9492

EMPLOYMENT CONNECTIONS, INC.  
Tom Ford  
980 Broadway  
Chelsea, MA 02150  
Tel: 884-1755

GREATER BOSTON YMCA  
Michael Gardner  
519 Washington Street  
Brighton, MA 02135  
Tel: 782-3932

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BOSTON  
Moiria Lucey  
287 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115  
Tel: 536-1081

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LAWRENCE  
Kathy Rodger  
454 Canal Street  
Lawrence, MA 01840  
Tel: 687-0981

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF LOWELL  
Lydia Mattei  
79 High Street  
Lowell, MA 01852  
Tel: 459-9031

INDOCHINESE REFUGEE FOUNDATION  
Carol Kierstead  
79 High Street  
Lowell, MA 01852  
Tel: 454-4286

JEWISH VOCATIONAL SERVICES  
Joan Seeler  
2001 Beacon Street  
Brookline, MA 02146  
Tel: 734-0258

LEAGUE OF HAITIAN FAMILIES  
Marie Val Winfield  
169 Massachusetts Avenue #32  
Boston, MA 02115  
Tel: 266-3363

LYNN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING  
Andrew Euzukonis  
140 Union Street  
Lynn, MA 01902  
Tel: 593-3100

NORTHSHORE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING  
Judy Selesnick  
Ten Orne Street  
Salem, MA 01970  
Tel: 745-9280

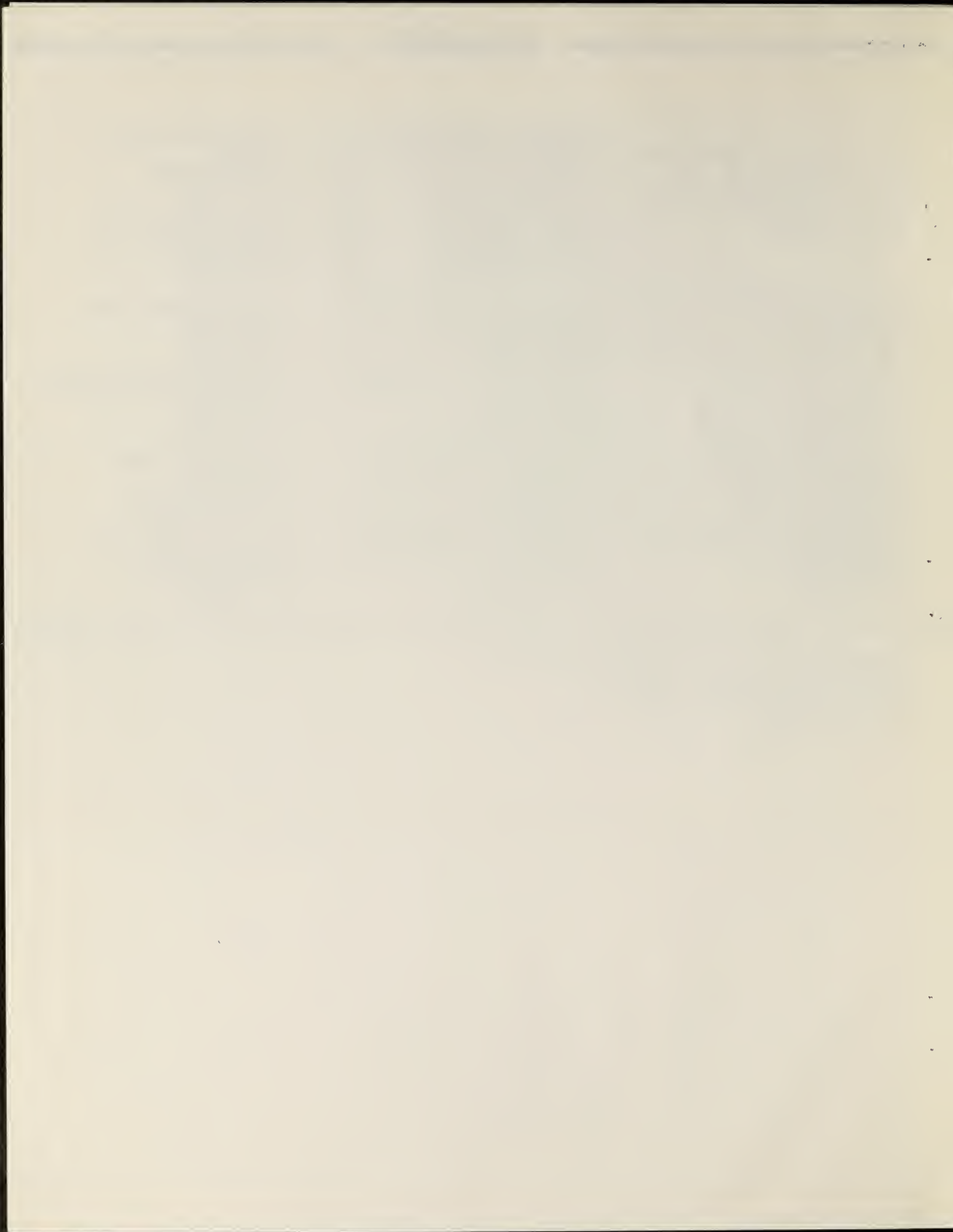
RRP/SPRINGFIELD DIOCESE  
Carol Montanari  
11 Pearl Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Tel: (413) 732-6365

URBANISTICS FOUNDATION, INC.  
Stan Nikkel  
454 Washington Street  
Braintree, MA 02184  
Tel: 843-5507

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Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement  
600 Washington Street, Suite 405  
Boston, Massachusetts 02111

(617) 727-7888





# New Roots

**The Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement Newsletter**

## **Governor Voices Concern About Anti-Asian Violence**

On August 16th, Governor Michael Dukakis went to Lowell to express his personal condolences to the family of Bun Vong, a 34-year old Cambodian refugee who died on August 14th. Bun Vong suffered a multiple skull fracture and lay in a coma for 11 days after being allegedly beaten by two men in Medford.

After visiting with Bun Vong's widow and two daughters, the Governor made the following statement to the press and Cambodian community leaders attending Bun Vong's wake.

"I'm very, very concerned about what seems to be a pattern of incidents directed against Asian American citizens in this state.

"We've worked so well together as a Commonwealth and as a community that when any group of people in our state seems to be a target of incidents which do violence to them and their families, that's something that concerns me very deeply, and I know it concerns the Attorney General. And particularly in this community (Lowell) where so much has been done to bring the Cambodian community into the life of Lowell in a very genuine way.

"I want to make it clear that we're not going to tolerate these kinds of incidents, that we are brothers and sisters together. That particularly in this community which has been a melting pot for a long, long time, where my Dad came 70 years ago to start his life in a new world, and where so much has been done to bring people together, this kind of tragedy will not be tolerated.

*Continued on page 2*



Members of the Khmu Family Association of Massachusetts lead a workshop on traditional music at the Asian American Resource Workshop's May forum on Asian American art and culture.

## **Annual Refugee Community Outreach Conference A Success**

The Refugee Health Program held its annual community outreach conference earlier this year at the Middlesex County Hospital in Waltham. Approximately 80 people participated in this joint effort with the Division of Tuberculosis Control. Community health workers for Southeast Asians, Chinese, Hispanic, and American-born communities joined together with public health nurses from throughout the State to explore cross-cultural issues of providing health services and to foster effective communication between "front-line" team members.

*Continued on page 6*





## **Boston Asian Refugee Coalition Formed**

Refugee-run Mutual Assistance Associations in greater Boston took a major step forward on July 2nd by forming the Boston Asian Refugee Coalition (BARCO) in order to share resources and deal collectively with the crises of racial violence in their neighborhoods. The coalition will unite the strengths and resources of each of the MAAs to develop effective solutions to ease racial tensions and work on common issues of cultural preservation.

BARCO's seven charter members include the Cambodian Community of Massachusetts, the Indochinese Mutual Assistance Association, the Kmhmu Family Association of Massachusetts, the Laotian American Cultural Association of Boston, the Laotian Association of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Association of Chinese from Indochina, and the Vietnamese American Civic Association. Other Massachusetts-based MAAs may also join BARCO by requesting membership on a case-by-case basis. Each MAA is entitled to one vote in BARCO and representation by one official on BARCO's Steering Committee. Any MAA member may attend BARCO meetings, however.

*Continued on page 6*



*Continued from page 1*

"I can assure everybody, and particularly everyone in this community, that this state is going to stand for justice, it is going to stand for tolerance, it is going to welcome newcomers to our shore, even as all of us were welcomed as immigrants. Both I and the Attorney General feel strongly

about this. We are going to make sure everyone in this Commonwealth understands this. We have already been working closely with police departments all over the state on civil rights issues, and so has the Attorney General.

"We have gotten a very positive response from police departments on this issue and anyone who is engaged in this kind of conduct is going to be prosecuted, and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

"In the last analysis, we've got to build a genuine spirit of understanding in Massachusetts, the same kind of spirit that has been created here in Lowell. We are going to continue working to bring people together. But we are also going to make sure everyone understands that anyone who is inclined to engage in this kind of violence is going to be prosecuted."

Bun Vong was well-known in the Cambodian community, having studied as a Buddhist monk and having taught English in Thai refugee camps prior to settling first in Revere and finally in Lowell. He leaves his wife, Neang Nou and two daughters Anny, 4, and Kanika, 5. Neighbors in Lowell have established the Bun Vong Family Fund in his memory care of the Central Savings Bank at 50 Central Street, Lowell, MA 01852.

## **Refugee Health Program Receives Continuation Funds**

The U.S. Public Health Service, Region I, has awarded funds to the Massachusetts Refugee Health Program for Fiscal Year 1986. The Program serves as the State's point of notification for all refugees arriving from overseas. In cooperation with the Voluntary Resettlement Agencies (VOLAGS), health care providers, and local Health Departments, the Program also works to ensure that refugees receive a timely and complete health assessment. Community outreach services are an integral aspect of efforts to carry out the health assessment mandate and to provide follow-up for health problems of public health significance, particularly tuberculosis.

*Continued on page 5*





## ***In Memory of Ha Tang Lienghot***

On Tuesday, March 12th, Mr. Ha Tang Lienghot died unexpectedly in his home. He was 41 years old, survived by his parents, Reverend and Mrs. Ha Chu-a and eight brothers and sisters all in Vietnam, his brother Jim Lienghot of California, and his cousin Kin Lienghot of Massachusetts.

Ha Tang came to this country in 1969 from his home in Dalat, South Vietnam, and was among the first of the Montagnard—a small minority population from Vietnam's central highlands—to receive formal education.

Sponsored by Frank and Agnes Bridges of Needham, Ha Tang attended Needham High School and received a B.S. in Marketing from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He later pursued graduate studies in social planning at Boston College.

Ha Tang's dream was to return to Vietnam to improve the educational opportunities and quality of life for his Montagnard people. To this end, he founded Lienghot Educational Fund in 1972 which raised and sent several thousand dollars to Vietnam for the education of Montagnard children.

Unable to return to Vietnam after 1975, Ha Tang began his work as a job developer at the International Institute of Boston. For nearly ten years he assisted refugees in seeking opportunities to begin new lives of dignity and achievement.

Ha Tang lies now at rest in Brighton's Evergreen Cemetery. He is remembered by many.

### **HA TANG**

He did it his own way—

- a cluttered desk surrounded by a crowd of clients
- a watch ticking to the pulse of life rather than timesheets
- a lunch hosting client, friend, and colleague alike
- a disregard for procedure, left to make its own journey through the maze
- a heart and home for restless wanderers
- a telephone ringing with two on hold
- a party invitation at those lonely times when Boston streets looked doubly strange
- a dance tempo that played "Hey, baby!"
- a generosity with no debts to repay
- a plea "Eh, man—don't you understand?"

He left us a legacy—

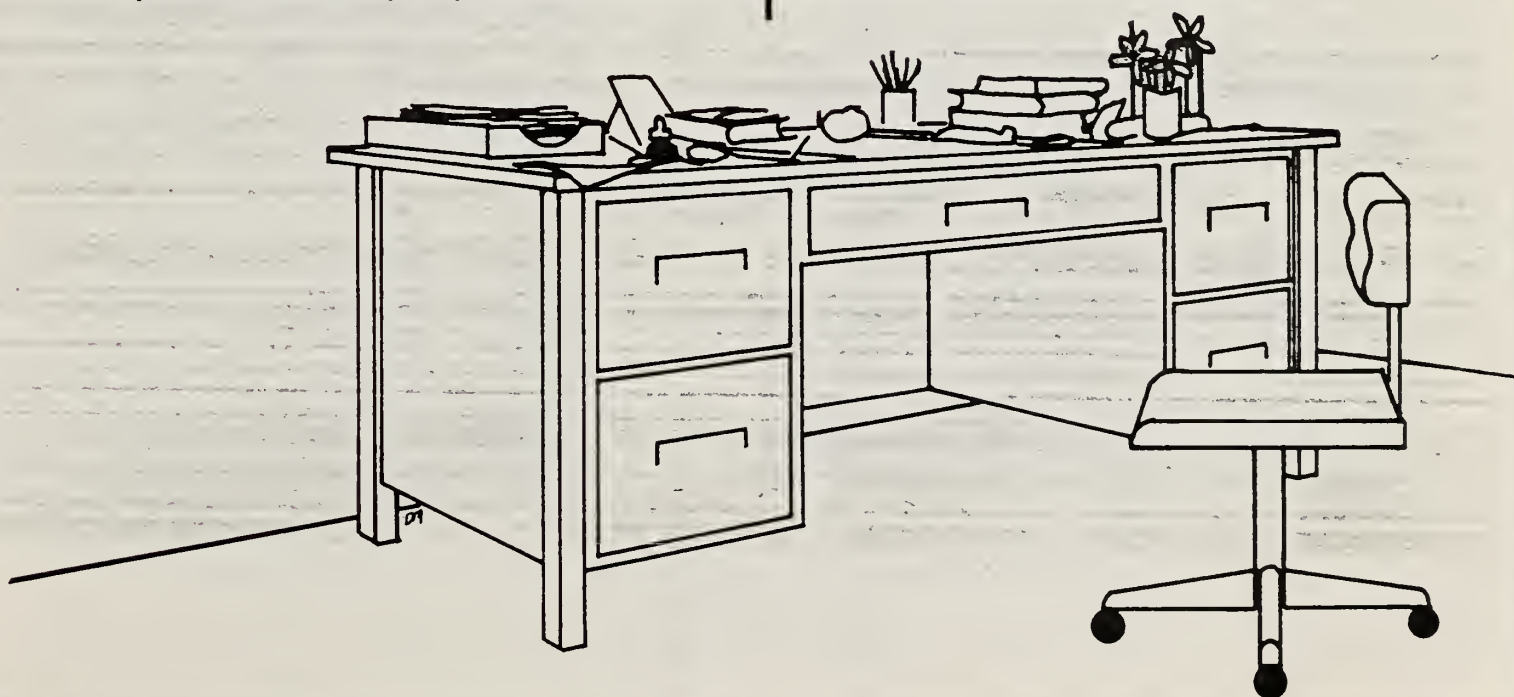
- it says: you are a man  
you are a woman  
we all are

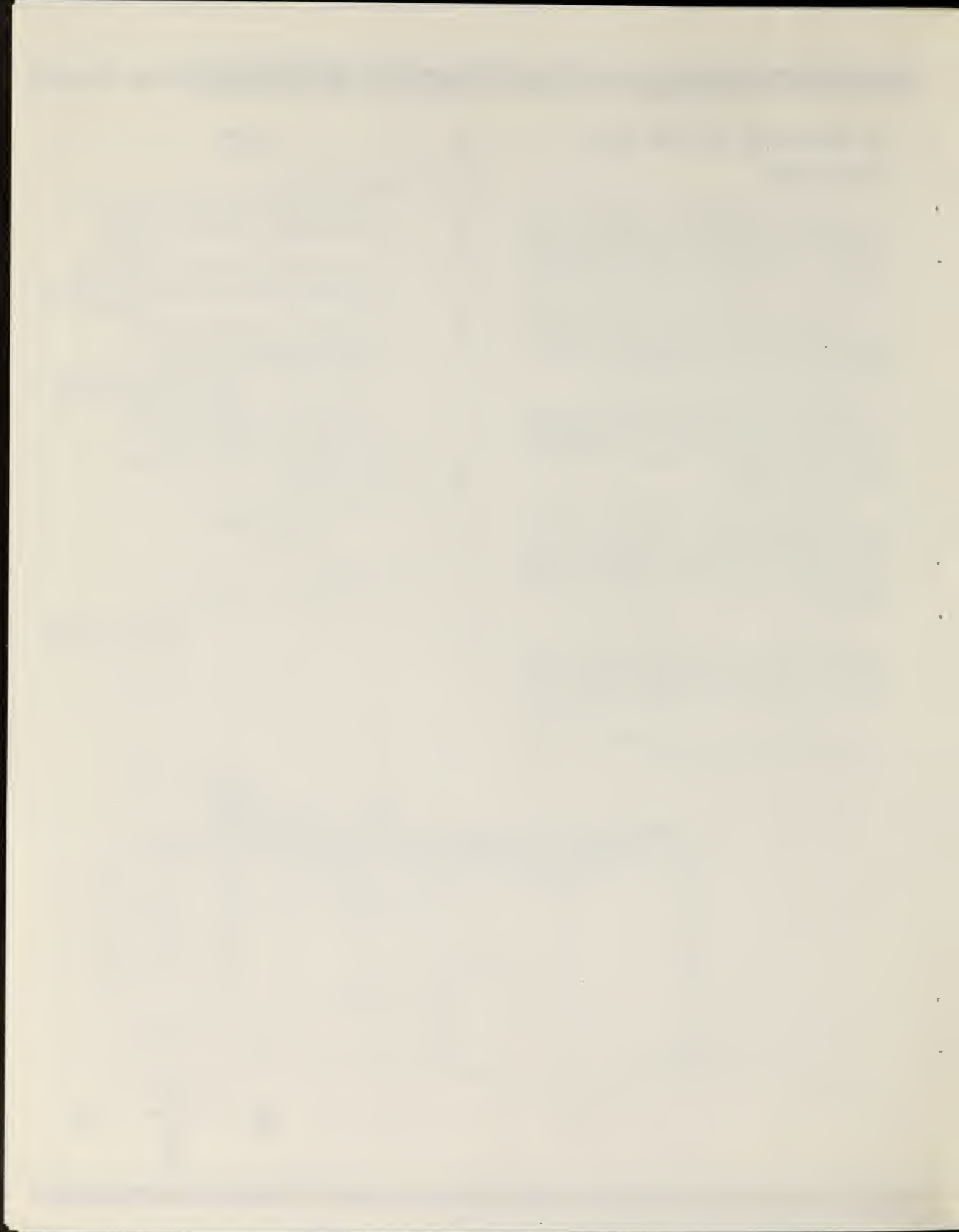
We miss him—

- he would say "It's no big deal."

It is . . .

*A friend and colleague*







## **Cambridge Acts in Support of Undocumented Refugees**

In the midst of growing local and national concern for the rights and well-being of refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Haiti, the City Council of Cambridge passed an ordinance earlier this year declaring Cambridge "A Sanctuary City," and providing assistance and protection for these refugees to the extent legally possible.

Introduced by City Councillors Alice Wolf, Sandra Graham, David Sullivan, and Al Vellucci, the text of the ordinance acknowledges that "thousands of refugees are fleeing from violence and gross human rights violations. . . ." and that "thousands of these Salvadorean, Guatemalan, and Haitian refugees have settled in Cambridge, and are making a contribution as active residents to the well-being of our City. . . ." The ordinance refers to language in the Federal Refugee Act of 1980 that provides official refugee status in the United States for any refugee "who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of their country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular group, or political opinion. . . ." The ordinance notes that rather than extending refugee status to refugees from Haiti and Central America, federal agents have instead arrested and deported thousands of refugees in 1984 alone.

In the face of this pattern, the City Council voted: "That the City of Cambridge not participate in any form in the compounding of injustice against refugees from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Haiti." Among the provisions that would specifically back this principle are prohibitions against city employees participating in measures directed against refugees from the countries in question solely based upon their citizenship or immigration status.

With the passage of this ordinance, Cambridge joined the ranks of several other major American cities in expressing official concern and support for the plight of refugees who have not been accorded formal recognition or protection. Recently, a brochure has been produced to educate the general public about the content and significance of the ordinance. Copies of the brochure, as well as the full text of the City Council's resolution, can be obtained through the Cambridge Peace Commission c/o City Hall Annex, 57 Inman Street, Cambridge, MA 02139.

## **Targeted Assistance Grants Made**

Between May 1, 1985 and October 31, 1986, MORR is allocating over \$1.3 million in targeted assistance grants (TAGs) to Service Delivery Areas (SDAs) in Lowell, Boston, Cambridge, and the Middlesex County Commissioners Office.

Five hundred clients from targetted populations of (1) refugees who have exhausted their 18/36 month time limit on Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA); (2) unemployed refugees still receiving RCA who are within six months of approaching the 18/36 month time limit; (3) underemployed refugees (working poor); and (4) underemployed refugees who are working in jobs below their skill level and qualifications are expected to be served. TAG money will help SDAs to mainstream refugees into existing job and skills training programs.

The *Lowell* SDA offers several model plans, including: (1) upfront English as a Second Language (ESL) leading to Occupational Job Training (OJT) or Job Training (JTPA) skills training; (2) skills upgrading; (3) advanced vocational skills training; (4) trade apprenticeship; and (5) training for cottage industry businesses. Each approach includes cultural/bilingual supportive services and client follow-up.

In *Boston*, the Neighborhood Development and Employment Agency (NDEA) offers special skills training with occupational ESL, and enrollments in JTPA skills training with individualized pre-training language instruction and on-going cultural/bilingual supportive services.

The *Cambridge* SDA which serves refugees in Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop as well as Cambridge emphasizes remedial language and math education concurrent with cultural/bilingual supportive services aimed at "feeding" into existing JTPA skills training programs.

The Middlesex County Commissioners Office provides a JTPA skills training "feeder" program similar to Cambridge, but also emphasizes development of jobs with private industries, development of clients' basic language and occupational skills, placement, Vocational ESL instruction on the job site, cultural orientation to both employer and employees, mediation with employers, and cultural/bilingual supportive services with client follow-up.

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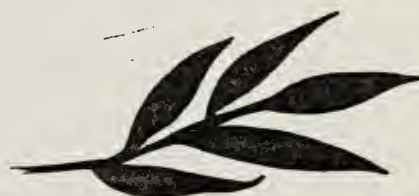
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As of July 1985, the following refugee-run **Mutual Assistance Associations** have been contracted by **MORR** to provide a range of services to their constituents:

- Chantha Chea  
 ■ **Cambodian Community of Mass., Inc.**  
 140 Pearl Street  
 P.O. Box 6013  
 Chelsea, MA 02150  
 Tel.: 884-8004
- Sun Ly Sokh  
 ■ **Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Gr. Lowell, Inc.**  
 79 High Street  
 Lowell, MA 01852  
 Tel.: 454-4286
- John Barnes  
 ■ **Cambridge Haitian American Association**  
 105 Windsor Street  
 Cambridge, MA 02139
- Mekonnen Meshesha  
 ■ **Ethiopian Family Center, Inc.**  
 88 Tremont Street, Suite 707  
 Boston, MA 02108  
 Tel.: 723-5351
- Robert Mathews  
 ■ **Indochinese Community Development Association of Gr. Lawrence**  
 297 South Union Street  
 Lawrence, MA 01843  
 Tel.: 686-6902, 685-1933
- Margery Cooper  
 ■ **Kmhmu Family Association**  
 377 Walnut Avenue  
 Boston, MA 02119
- Sommay Simuang  
 ■ **Laotian Association of Lowell**  
 921 Middlesex Street  
 Lowell, MA 01852  
 Tel.: 459-0157
- Domduane Rattanasone  
 ■ **Laotian Association of Mass.**  
 c/o 72 Wyoming Avenue  
 Melrose, MA 02176
- Marie Yolette Val-Winfield  
 ■ **League of Haitian Family**  
 169 Massachusetts Avenue  
 Boston, MA 02115  
 Tel.: 266-3363

- Sandra Wong, Director  
 ■ **Mass. Assoc. of Chinese from Indochina**  
 684 Washington Street  
 Boston, MA 02111  
 Tel.: 357-8166
- Bee Moua  
 ■ **New National Lao-Hmong Foundation**  
 332 South Street  
 Fitchburg, MA 01420  
 Tel.: 345-8358
- My Nhung Thi Mai  
 ■ **Vietnamese American Civic Association**  
 204 Adams Street, Apt. 2, Room 2  
 Dorchester, MA 02122
- Dau Bui  
 ■ **Vietnamese Mutual Assistance Association of Gr. Lowell**  
 79 High Street  
 Lowell, MA 01852



## Continued from page 2

The Program's budget was expanded moderately to allow for the creation of a new Non-Boston Outreach Coordinator position. This person will provide direct support and assistance to the widely scattered outreach staff, to local Health Departments of impacted communities, and to health care providers. The budget also ensures that the current ethnic and geographic distribution of outreach services will be maintained and allows for planning of some expanded coverage to other additional areas.

This year's support offers the Refugee Health Program an opportunity to work more closely with VOLAGS and health care providers to improve the delivery of health assessment services, and to develop more in-service programs for staff and education programs for communities and agencies.

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Dr. Nhuan Hoang, a private physician with practices in Boston and Lawrence, was the keynote speaker. His address included valuable information on past and present tuberculosis control programs in his native Vietnam. He also dealt with cultural differences in the perception of illness, availability of drugs, and Asian expectations of health professionals. Dr. Hoang inspired a very active and useful discussion—receiving the highest praise from conference participants.

Dr. John Moses, a pulmonary specialist at the Middlesex County Hospital who has had significant cross-cultural experience, spoke about issues of patient compliance. He stressed that health professionals' communication effectiveness and their ability to form a good relationship with patients were the most crucial determinants to achieving compliance. This, he said, is true whether the provider and the patient speak the same language or not.

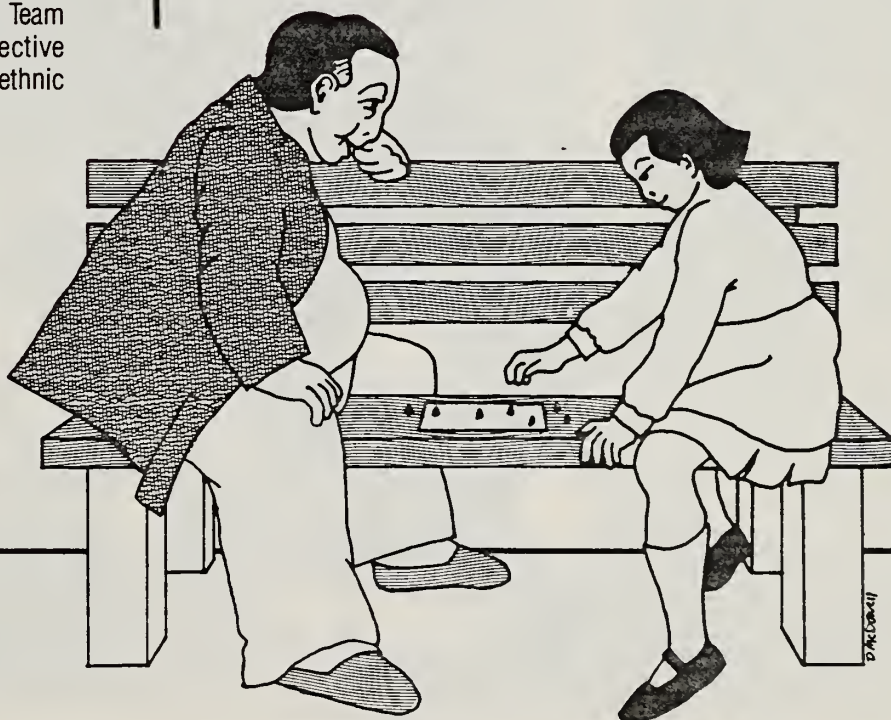
Jane Barabash and the Boston Outreach Team shared their experiences in developing a tuberculosis educational slide show in five languages. With the outreach team participating in all stages in the developmental process, Jane stressed the importance of tapping the skills and insights of outreach workers in developing appropriate and effective approaches to working with people of diverse ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds.

The conference's afternoon sessions were devoted to small work groups. Outreach workers and public health nurses examined case studies and discussed culturally appropriate approaches to treatment and intervention. Team members also discussed how to develop more effective communications when providing services to different ethnic communities.

## Continued from page 2

BARCO's short-term plans include coordinating violence prevention workshops for each MAA with the Boston Police Community Disorders Unit and local police forces. Workshops will focus on improving communication and cooperation between the refugee communities and local police. Other workshops that might be organized include training MAA members in social, cultural, and political aspects of American life and helping refugees to overcome isolation. Multi-ethnic sports and recreation programs may also be organized by BARCO to promote understanding and good will among refugee children and youth of other ethnic groups.

Long-term plans may include establishing on-going ESL/day-care programs for homebound refugee women, various fundraising activities, and collaborations with other Asian groups on issues of common concern as needed.







*Linguistic Minority Enrollment for Selected Massachusetts School Districts  
for October, 1984; Source is Massachusetts Department of Education Individual School Report*

School District	Chinese	Haitian	Hmong	Khmer	Laotian	Vietnam	Total
Boston	2267	240	6	501	166	710	3890
Brockton	66	0	13	0	11	44	138
Cambridge	77	77	0	0	0	10	164
Chelsea	29	3	0	131	0	78	241
Fall River	22	0	0	14	2	2	40
Fitchburg	0	0	8	0	44	14	66
Framingham	26	0	0	0	0	9	35
Holyoke	0	0	0	16	0	3	19
Lawrence	55	0	0	7	2	107	171
Lowell	81	0	0	332	149	64	628
Lynn	11	5	0	62	60	8	148
Medford	9	0	0	0	0	7	16
New Bedford	8	5	0	0	7	7	27
Revere	6	0	0	218	11	5	240
Salem	6	0	0	0	5	19	30
Somerville	30	39	0	0	6	47	122
Springfield	19	0	4	0	18	33	74
Waltham	37	29	0	0	15	16	97
Worcester	40	0	0	32	20	212	304



Vietnamese students in the Boston Public Schools Bilingual program in Brighton.  
(PHOTO: Hong Duong)





P.O. Box 9101  
Boston, MA 02112



# ***New Roots***

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Public Welfare**

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Printing by **Massachusetts Correctional Industries**





# New Roots

## The Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement Newslette



Members of the new Governor's Advisory Council on Refugee Resettlement begin their term of service, as Governor Dukakis administers the official oath in a State House ceremony.

### New Advisory Council Appointed

The new 29-member Governor's Advisory Council on Refugee Resettlement was sworn-in by Governor Dukakis on October 20, 1985. Mandated by the Federal Refugee Act of 1980, the Council advises the Governor on all matters relevant to refugee resettlement in the Commonwealth and takes an active role in developing policy recommendations for various state programs, including the Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement (MORR).

The 1985-86 Governor's Advisory Council (GAC) is co-chaired by Dr. Hai B. Pho and Ms. Kathleen Lique. Dr. Pho is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Lowell while Ms. Lique is Program Director for the Health Education Center at Boston University's School of Medicine. Stepping down from their successful terms as GAC co-chairs for the 1984-85 term are Ms. Katharine Rodger and Reverend William Erat.

The Governor's Council draws a great deal of support from its Task Forces: Human Resources, Employment and Economic Development, Community Relations, and Mutual Assistance Associations. The Task Forces themselves frequently form special committees on issues such as child care, mental health, and education when specific needs arise.

### Second Annual REFUGEE PLANNING CONFERENCE Promotes Coordination

For two days in early October more than one hundred persons convened at the Thompson Island Education Center in Boston Harbor to determine how services to refugees could be delivered with greater effectiveness in the year ahead.

The Conference was jointly sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Council on Refugee Resettlement and by the Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Department of Social Welfare. The participants represented a broad range of state agencies along with the major private human service organizations which work on behalf of refugees in Massachusetts. In the weeks prior to the gathering, staff members of the state agencies had collaborated to produce draft plans for extending services to refugee constituents. These plans represented a preliminary step toward the implementation of the Governor's Order on Refugee Policy that Governor Dukakis would announce at the Conference. The plans were also the central focus of the work sessions of the Conference.

The program began with an address by Governor Dukakis on the important role that immigrants have played in the development of Massachusetts and the significance of refugee service programs in helping this new group of immigrants realize the opportunities to be found here. At the conclusion of his remarks, the Governor signed the state's first executive order formally establishing the principles, structures and procedures of refugee services in Massachusetts.

Responses to the Governor's talk were given by the State Refugee Coordinator, and by Hai B. Pho, Chairman of the Mutual Assistance Association Task Force of the Governor's Advisory Council. Dr. Pho closed his response with the thoughts: "I am very grateful for the commitment and leadership the state has given to this refugee program. I am proud and excited to be part of a great and continuing effort. In this endeavor I believe the state can again claim that the spirit of Massachusetts is the spirit of

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## Refugee Planning continued from page 1



Governor Dukakis delivers opening address at 2nd Annual State Refugee Planning Conference. (Seated, L. to R.: Welfare Commissioner Chuck Atkins, Governor's Advisory Council Member Kathy Rodger, G.A.C. Member Hai B. Pho, Refugee Coordinator Dan Lam).

Next on the agenda was a panel presentation on resources available for serving refugees. Participants in the panel were: Jack Anderson, Director of Region I of the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement; Wayne Parsons, of the research firm, Parsons and Associates; and Nancy Robb, Chair of the Community Relations Task Force of the Refugee Advisory Council.

In the afternoon, there was a series of four sessions devoted to analyzing and developing the drafted plans that had been prepared by working groups within key state agencies. These agencies were: the Executive Office of Economic Affairs; Exec. Off. of Communities and Development; Exec. Off. of Public Safety; Dept. of Public Welfare; Dept. of Public Health; Dept. of Mental Health; Dept. of Education; Dept. of Social Services; and the Office for Children.

On Saturday morning, there was a panel in which models were described for building up the capacity of a program to serve the refugee population. Efforts highlighted were those of the Dept. of Mental Health, the Office of Training and Employment Policy (Exec. Off. of Economic Affairs) and the Southeast Asian WIC Program of the Dept. of Public Health. This segment of the agenda was followed by two more sessions concentrating on service plan development.

During the lunch period, Kitty Dukakis spoke to the Conference participants. Her remarks centered on the special contributions that Massachusetts is making in the nation's refugee program. Speaking to the goals of those present, she said: "Our concern here is for the 30,000 who have settled in Massachusetts since 1975. We care about them as we have always cared, always offering sanctuary to oppressed people. We want to reach out to these newcomers, help them to share in the benefits of our society, and to add their unique talents and gifts to ours." Looking to the challenges being addressed in the Conference, Mrs. Dukakis noted, "In the year

ahead, we have an opportunity to improve our state services, to make them more sensitive, appropriate and inclusive, and more responsive to the various ethnic communities that are represented."

In the final portion of the agenda, the work of the two days was summarized and the tasks of the next several months were outlined. The efforts at the Conference were meant to lend direction and momentum to agency planning for meeting the needs of refugees. In his closing statement, Dr. Pho stated that this purpose had been accomplished and voiced the expectation that those who took part "will look back with great satisfaction on this event."



## Profiles of GAC Co-Chairs

Born in Vietnam, **Pho Ba Hai** has the distinction of being the first Southeast Asian-American to serve as Co-chair of the Governor's Advisory Council for Refugee Resettlement. Dr. Pho is a man of many distinctions, however, and this is not the first time that his leadership and expertise have been recognized.

Under Dr. Pho's direction between 1983-85, the Innovative Employment Project based in Lowell was ranked 2nd out of 15 projects nationally for successfully developing curriculum materials and establishing partnerships with employers in the electronics, mechanical assembly, and hotel industries. Between 1979 and 1985, Dr. Pho coordinated the Indochinese Refugee Foundation's Education and Employment Project on a voluntary basis. He currently serves on Boards for the Indochinese Refugee Foundation, the Lowell Control Commission, and the International Institute of Lowell.

Dr. Pho is also Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Lowell where he teaches courses on government in Southeast Asia and China, international relations, and the Vietnam War. He is married and has two children. Dr. Pho has served as Chairperson of the Mutual Assistance Associations Task Force of the GAC since its formation in 1983.

On being appointed Co-Chair, Dr. Pho commented, "I am honored to be asked to serve." "The success of any organization depends on the ability of its members to perform," he added in anticipation of the challenges ahead. Dr. Pho also noted the importance of "recognizing the presence of refugees and minorities in the state," which he saw being reflected in his own appointment as the first Southeast Asian-American GAC Co-Chair.

Ms. Kathy Lique shares the duties of chairing GAC with Pho Ba Hai. Ms. Lique has served on the GAC since 1983, initially with the MAA Task Force and more recently as chair of

Continued on page 7





## ***Governor's Advisory Council for Refugee Resettlement 1985-86***

✓ **James Aldrich**

Executive Director,  
International Institute of Boston

**Katherine Burns**

New Program Developer,  
Employment Resources Inc.  
Cambridge

**Rosemarie Cummins**

Director,  
Centro Presente  
Cambridge

**Vachirin Chea**

Real Estate Developer,  
Groton

**Khamphouang Douangmany**

President,  
Lao Association of Massachusetts  
Melrose

✓ **Kitty Dukakis**

Board Member  
Refugee Policy Group

**Susan Goodwillie**

President,  
Goodwillie Group  
Boston

**Martin Gopen**

Compliance Department  
Massachusetts Port Authority

**Neil Gordon**

Planning Director for Employment  
and Human Services,  
NDEA—Boston

**Sgt. Det. William Johnston**

Commander,  
Community Disorders Unit  
Boston Police Department

**Kathleen Lique**

Program Director,  
Area Health Education Center  
Boston University

**James Lavelle**

Program Director,  
Indochinese Psychiatry Clinic  
Brighton Marine Health Center

**Holly Lockwood**

Coordinator,  
Metropolitan Indochinese Children  
and Adolescent Services  
Boston

**Kiet Mac**

Board of Directors,  
Massachusetts Association of  
Chinese from Indochina  
Boston

**Chief John McHugh**

Winchester Police Department

**Rev. Philip McNamara**

Assistant to the Director,  
Catholic Charities of Worcester

✓ **Mekonnen Meshesha**

Board of Directors,  
Ethiopian Family Center Inc.  
Boston

**Greg Miller**

Executive Director,  
International Institute of Lawrence

**Carol Montanari**

Refugee Program Director  
Diocese of Springfield

**Rev. Don Nanstad**

Pastor,  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
East Boston

**Maria Nguyen**

Bilingual Teacher  
Brighton High School

**Stan Nikkel**

President,  
Urbanistics Foundation  
Braintree

**Dr. Hai B. Pho**

Associate Professor,  
Political Science Department  
University of Lowell

**Nancy Robb**

Consultant,  
Catholic Charities of Boston

**Katharine Rodger**

Director,  
Lawrence Education and Employment  
Program

**Peter Rose**

Director,  
American Studies Diploma Program  
Smith College  
Northampton

**Bouaketh Sayarath**

Board of Directors,  
Khmumu Family Association  
Boston

**Robert Sherman**

Director,  
Project to Combat Racial Violence  
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights  
Under Law Boston

**Marie Yvette Val-Winfield**

Executive Director,  
League of Haitian Families  
Boston



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## Survey Results Announced on Attitudes Toward Refugees in Mass.

In order to provide Massachusetts organizations involved with refugee resettlement with information about the public perceptions of refugees and refugee issues, the Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement commissioned Kane, Persons, & Associates to undertake a survey research project for the Commonwealth. The research firm was asked specifically to gauge public attitudes on refugee resettlement and determine what information would be most helpful in enhancing public understanding and support for the resettlement process.

Five hundred adults were randomly selected from across the state and interviewed by telephone in April and May 1985. To avoid possible bias, respondents were not told by whom the survey was commissioned.

Most respondents reported some exposure to refugees, either through the media (90% have read newspaper accounts, for example) or through direct contact (22% have friends who are refugees). Despite their exposure, however, only 17% considered themselves to have informed opinions on refugee resettlement issues. The bulk of respondents, for example, did not know that refugee status, as distinct from regular immigration, is linked to the person's leaving their homeland to escape persecution.

Significantly, 85% say they are "very" or "somewhat" sympathetic to the plight of refugees entering the United States. Paralleling these results is the tendency to ascribe undesirable characteristics, such as "self-reliance," to most refugees and to refrain from characterizing them in unflattering terms, such as being "lazy" or "illegal." Unfavorable impressions of refugees tend to center around economic issues such as welfare costs, or perceptions that refugees take away others' jobs.

The Massachusetts survey shows that 71% to 85% favor putting each of seven hypothetical individuals to Massachusetts, six of which would be considered technically as refugees (the seventh example was fleeing famine). This finding is consistent with the results of a national survey conducted a year earlier.

Substantial majorities also indicate that their attitudes toward refugee resettlement were favorably influenced by additional information, such as the moral and humanitarian aspects of refugee programs. Public support for refugee resettlement may well be expanded by addressing humanitarian concerns and aiding people to realize that refugees are, in fact, persons fleeing persecution.

Only 13% of those interviewed expressed no sympathy for refugees. Additionally, respondents reported that receptivity to refugees increases with the amount of contact they have had with refugees.

Continued on page 8

## Revere Takes NEW APPROACH to Community Relations

In just the last several years, the city of Revere has become home to a sizeable number of refugees from Cambodia. Drawn to the city by the relative availability of housing and accessibility to jobs and services, the Cambodian community has grown to an estimated 1200.

While the refugees and their sponsors had experienced a general acceptance by the people of Revere, there were also instances of hostility directed by some individuals toward the newcomers. Such individual acts of bigotry were denounced by community leaders and fought in court by the Attorney General's office when they would occur. Then, in mid-July of 1985, a fire of suspicious origin destroyed a house in which five Cambodian families had been living. Since the house had previously been the target of racially-motivated acts, it seemed to many that a higher level of community response to prejudice was now required. The following week Mayor George Colella announced the creation of Revere's Commission on Human Rights.

In his charge to the Commission, Mayor Colella highlighted some particular areas of responsibility. These were to include: "promoting a better understanding of cultural differences between the newly arrived residents and the general populace of the City"; "establishing viable channels of communication with refugee sponsorship agencies...to facilitate better placement planning"; "creating a sustained dialogue with area social service agencies to foster a more comprehensive coordination of service efforts"; and "functioning as liaison with the full range of local, state and federal agencies involved in the refugee resettlement process."

The sixteen members appointed to the Commission reflect many of the major institutions within the community of Revere: churches, government, business, human services, education. In addition, there is representation of the city's Cambodian population. The Commission would be assisted in its work by a Technical Advisory Committee. This eleven-member Committee includes the Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments, as well as representatives of the School Dept., Housing Authority, Board of Health and other public agencies.

Continued on page 8







## W.I.C. Model Program Serves SE Asians

In the Fall of 1983, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health published the results of a survey which had been designed to estimate the prevalence of nutritional deficiencies among a sample of low-income children who live in Massachusetts and use community pediatric health care facilities. Children between the ages of six months and five years eleven months were chosen as the study population because their rapid growth makes them particularly vulnerable to the effects of insufficient or inappropriate food intake.

A major finding of the survey was that chronic malnutrition appears to be a significant public health problem in low-income preschool children. Of particular concern was the sampling of 51 Asian children, of whom 15.7% had low height for age and 11.8% had low weight for height (a generally accepted indicator of acute malnutrition). The rate of undernutrition was significantly greater for Southeast Asian children than for any other racial group in the sample.

The findings of the survey were sufficiently disturbing to warrant allocation of special funds to target expanded services to Southeast Asians through the Massachusetts WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) Program.

In October 1984, the WIC Program initiated a Southeast Asian (SEA) WIC Project designed as a model to increase Southeast Asian participation in the WIC Program and to provide Southeast Asians with culturally sensitive services once enrolled. Other objectives of the project included: developing multilingual nutrition education materials; recruiting and training bilingual, bicultural staff; and increasing the statewide capacity to provide technical assistance to service providers working with Southeast Asians.

WIC Program staff recognized the critical importance of training Southeast Asian staff in nutrition intervention strategies, not only to ensure the success of the project but also to address the long-term needs of the population. With assistance from Mutual Assistance Associations, refugee service providers, and many other institutions and individuals, the SEA WIC project recruited over 40 candidates for 12 positions as Nutritional Assistants. Especially encouraged were Southeast Asians already participating in WIC program services. By December 1984, the twelve bilingual, bicultural Nutrition Assistants were hired, including six Cambodians, three Vietnamese, two Laotians, and one H'mong.

By January, the Nutrition Assistants had been placed part-time in various WIC program areas with significant numbers of Southeast Asians eligible for services. These areas included: Allston/Brighton, Brockton, Charlestown/Chelsea, Fall River, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Malden/Revere, North Central, Somerville/Medford, South End, and Upham's Corner in Boston.

The new Southeast Asian para-professionals then received general training as WIC Nutrition Assistants and specialized training to work effectively with Southeast Asian clients.

Training at the local level ranged from practicing routine office procedures to demonstrating various individual nutritional counseling styles and techniques to conducting group counseling and educational sessions.

Several specific cross-cultural training issues emerged in the process of integrating the Southeast Asian para-professionals. These included: specific English-language related issues having to do with medical terminology, writing assessments, and answering telephone requests; supervisory issues when the chain of command and proposed work plan were not clearly defined; cultural differences in counseling styles and views of traditional health practices; personal issues of individual staff members who themselves were dealing with tremendous daily pressures involved in their own resettlement and adjustment; and dynamics between SEA project staff and WIC program staff outside of the project. Many valuable lessons and experiences were shared in the process.

With training well underway, SEA project staff concentrated on four tasks: developing an extensive resource library on nutrition for Southeast Asians; disseminating nutrition information about Southeast Asians to service providers; producing a pictorial "Welcome to WIC" informational pamphlet for Southeast Asian participants; and developing nutrition education modules on specific issues for Southeast Asian participants at high nutritional risk. Additionally, nutrition assistants conducted extensive bilingual outreach within the Southeast Asian communities and in coordination with various organizations and agencies. Finally, project staff have made special efforts to network with other health care providers to share information and give assistance on how to outreach into the Southeast Asian communities and provide appropriate services. This has allowed the project staff to share their expertise while identifying available resources which may be useful in developing long-term planning for the SEA project.

For FY86, the SEA project staff will continue to provide a wide range of culturally relevant nutritional services, counseling, and technical assistance. Efforts will be made to consolidate the many significant gains made by the project, particularly in the areas of outreach, training, and resource development with the intention of maximizing the overall impact of the SEA project across the state.







## Governor Proclaims Refugee Policy for State

On October 4th, Governor Michael Dukakis signed Executive Order No. 257, titled "Refugee Policy." The historic document represents the first such refugee policy document in the state, and also, it is thought, in the country.

The Order begins by setting a historical and philosophical context for the policy. Its preamble starts off with the statement: "Whereas, the Commonwealth has been a home and haven for immigrants and refugees since the beginning of its recorded history..." The text of the preamble notes that the refugee experience is a major upheaval in these people's lives and, in order for refugees to successfully adjust to a new country and culture, a period of transition is necessary to learn the language and culture of the new country." It also declares that "the Commonwealth recognizes that refugees have great potential to contribute to the Commonwealth and its communities, and that it is in the interest of all that their potential be nurtured and encouraged."

The Executive Order cites the United States Refugee Act of 1980 as its national mandate, and outlines several policies that not only consolidate and better establish the state's existing refugee service programs but also enable the state's small but significant refugee constituency, irrespective of citizenship, to be better served by all state agencies.

The Order designates the Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement (MORR) to be the state agency responsible for: coordinating and monitoring services for refugees provided by other state agencies; advocating for the well-being of refugee individuals and communities throughout the Commonwealth; and promoting the goals and process of refugee resettlement. It confirms the location of M.O.R.R. within the executive branch of state government, along with its relationship to the state Refugee Coordinator, who is appointed by the Governor. It also reaffirms the ties of cooperation between the M.O.R.R. and the Governor's Advisory Council on Refugee Resettlement previously established by Exec. Order No. 229).

Additionally, the Executive Order calls for overall planning efforts between state agencies and voluntary agencies to identify favorable placement sites for refugee resettlement and provide accessible, effective transitional services. Refugee mutual assistance associations (M.A.A.'s) are acknowledged as the cornerstone of future refugee community development and are to be consulted and involved in the process of determining community needs and the means to meet those needs.

It provides that all state agencies that conduct programs or activities directly or indirectly relating to the service needs of the refugee population are required to undertake an affirmative planning process, to be completed by January 31, 1986. This is to include: determining the current and potential requirements refugees have for the agency's services; assessing and documenting the extent to which refugees now

use the agency's services; and formulating a plan and timetable for implementation that ensures delivery of the agency's services in response to the needs identified.

In order to reduce the potential for discrimination against refugees, the Executive Order mandates that citizenship or residency status is not to be a condition imposed by the Commonwealth in determining state provision of benefits, opportunities, or services, unless required by federal statute, regulation or court order. Except as so required, citizenship and residency status would be treated as personal and confidential information, inappropriate to state inquiry.

The Executive Order is expected to clarify and consolidate many elements of the existing state refugee program. In addition, it should greatly extend the cooperative efforts within and among state agencies on behalf of the Massachusetts refugee population.

## Needs Assessments by M.A.A.'s Are Compiled

In the fall of 1984, the Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement funded fourteen refugee mutual assistance associations (MAA's) to conduct needs assessments in their communities as a means to understand conditions from the refugees' own perspective.

Each of the fourteen MAA's conducted a survey of their own design using questionnaires or face-to-face interviews. The majority of the MAA's surveyed 100 households.

The following perceived needs were identified by the MAA surveys:



**Housing:** Seventy-six percent (76%) of the respondents indicated that they have housing problems which were attributed to cost (57%), poor maintenance (59%), and /or safety (51%).



**Employment:** Sixty-five percent (65%) expressed that they were not able to meet their needs at their existing level of income. Some said they were underemployed because of the language barrier. Thirty-nine (39%) reported their jobs to be unstable while 26% had not yet been employed since arriving in the U.S. Job counseling and placement needs were reported by 70%, while skills training needs were reported by 17%.

Continued on page 7







**Safety:** Eight-two percent (82%) of the respondents were worried about their safety in the street, with 51% indicating that they have housing problems attributed to safety issues and 65% needing help in legal and family matters.



**Education and Security:** Seventy percent (70%) of the young people were worried about their survival in the U.S. relative to their education and future job opportunities; 82% of the employed adults worried about their job security.



**Transportation:** Eighty percent (80%) of the respondents indicated that they use public transportation. Most of them experience problems at night and in the wintertime because of night work schedules.



**Social Service and Public Assistance:** Eighty-five percent (85%) indicated that they have difficulty receiving services from social service or public assistance agencies in their locality.



**Language:** This is the most serious problem identified. Of all of the problems encountered, 59% of the respondents identified the language barrier as contributing to those other problems.

## GAC Profiles continued from page 2

the Human Resources Task Force. She also chaired the Planning Committee for the successful Refugee Planning Conference in October.

In 1980, Ms. Lique founded and directed the nationally-recognized Training Center for Indochinese Para-Professionals at Boston University's School of Social Work. Thinking back to the initial stages of the program while writing its training manual, Ms. Lique recalled learning as much from the refugee students as they did from the faculty members. "That was when I got hooked," she exclaimed, "the whole cross-cultural experience was an incredible learning experience for me."

Ms. Lique has directed several other projects, including a four-month refugee resettlement study sponsored by the University of Michigan for which, as Boston site director, she hired and trained 16 bilingual interviewers. She also directed a six-

month project to develop projects to develop a technical assistance network for New England-based agencies serving refugee populations.

Currently, Ms. Lique is Program Coordinator of the Area Health Education Center at Boston University's School of Medicine. In this capacity, she develops educational programs that address needs of various medically-underserved populations.

Both Ms. Lique and Dr. Pho agree on the major challenges facing the GAC in 1985-86. These include: assisting with and assessing the development of service delivery plans for various state agencies in accordance with the State's refugee policy set forth in Executive Order 257; and determining where MORR would best be located within the state structure, a task also mandated by EO 257. Additionally, Ms. Lique stated her intention to have civic and community-based organizations brought more directly into the service delivery system for refugees. Dr. Pho also stated his commitment to have the GAC serve, in part, as a forum for refugee populations to voice their needs and concerns.



## FYI

The annual subscription rate of *Refugee Reports* has been reduced to \$28.00. Multiple orders are available at \$20.00. *Refugee Reports* is a 16-page monthly devoted entirely to refugee issues. It covers national and local programs to meet refugees' needs, international refugee situations, U.S. legislation, regulations, and litigation affecting refugees, research, statistics, and resources. Subscribers also receive the U.S. Committee for Refugees' *World Refugee Survey* and its Issue Papers series. To subscribe, send a check with your name, affiliation, if appropriate, and address to: *Refugee Reports* Subscriptions, Sunbelt Fulfillment Services, P.O. Box 41094, Nashville, TN 37204.





## **Refugee Survey continued from page 4**

Overall, the survey indicates that the Massachusetts public is inclined to be favorable toward refugees, but is often uninformed about them. A major task for the refugee service network in Massachusetts, the study concludes, is to create educational and public relations opportunities through which the public's direct understanding and appreciation of refugees and refugee resettlement issues might be increased.

## **Revere continued from: page 4**

Since it began operation in August, the Commission has already had a beneficial effect in the view of some refugee advocates. Addressing the need for better public information, the Commission held a well-attended neighborhood meeting in September at which many rumors and misconceptions about refugees were exposed and set straight. By strengthening the interaction with public agencies, it has contributed to more effective responses to situations involving the safety of Cambodian residents. And the Commission is encouraging ideas for introducing materials into the public school curriculum to increase knowledge of Cambodian history and culture among Revere's youth.

At the time he formed the Commission on Human Rights, Mayor Colella stated: "Mindful of the fact that we are all immigrants or children of immigrants to this great country, I have asked for the help of all the good people of Revere to assist in a campaign for the preservation of racial harmony and justice within our community." In the few months since its inception, the Commission has provided this campaign with a special energy, visibility and spirit. Through its pursuit of greater understanding and cooperation between the long-time residents of Revere and their new Cambodian neighbors, the Commission on Human Rights appears to have begun a transformation in the relationship of the city and refugees from one of passive acceptance to one of active inclusion.



### **NEW ROOTS**

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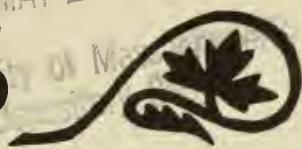
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# New Roots



Summer 1989

Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI)

Vol. 2 No. 1

## State Helps 15,000 Immigrants Remain Legal Residents

Massachusetts is delivering an important message to 15,000 residents taking part in a federal amnesty program for undocumented immigrants: There is a second step.

"Participants in the program are only temporary legal residents," says ORI Director Daniel Lam. They must still apply for permanent status. If applicants do nothing, they could lose their legal status altogether."

Lam recently outlined state efforts to help people complete the amnesty process. He spoke at a June 8 graduation ceremony at the Cardinal Cushing Center in Boston for students learning English and U.S. civics as part of the amnesty program. Also on hand to congratulate the students was Education Commissioner Harold Reynolds, Jr.

"Most amnesty applicants must demonstrate some knowledge of English

and U.S. civics," notes Lam. "Thanks to \$1.7 million in federal grants, we've been able to pay for classes in these subjects at the Cardinal Cushing Center and 23 other human service agencies across the state. We've also produced a special curriculum for the courses — *Welcome, Neighbor!* — which was developed by One with One, Inc. The book has been so successful it has even been reprinted by a commercial publisher and distributed nationally."

"To get the word out about phase two of the amnesty program," says Lam, "we've hooked up hot lines in six languages, sent public service announcements to several hundred newspapers and radio stations, and prepared bilingual flyers for distribution through community groups. And we'll continue to do outreach until the federal program ends in November 1990."

## Kitty Dukakis Kicks Off Women's Forums

Calling refugee and immigrant women "an inspiration to all of us," Kitty Dukakis kicked off the first of several Women's Forums on April 24 at Roxbury Community College. The conferences are designed to identify and address concerns common to newcomer women from all lands and to help them organize around those concerns.

Mrs. Dukakis encouraged the group of 150 people, representing nearly 30 community and ethnic organizations, to pressure government to help them meet their needs. "Those of you in this room have been in America long enough to know that government and our elected officials sometimes need a little prodding," she said. "You've learned that it takes patience and organization to grab the attention of those who can help you get what you need."

The forum series was organized by ORI, together with members of various ethnic organizations, community groups and government agencies.

"It was an historic moment," says Doralba Muñoz, ORI's Assistant Director for Immigrant Programs. "It was the first time that newcomer women from countries as diverse as Czechoslovakia, Vietnam and Cape Verde have gathered together in our state."

The next forum will be held on July 24 at Bunker Hill Community College and will focus on health care, mental health and access to services.



Cardinal Cushing Center graduate Francisca Castillo hugs teacher Andrea Karp before receiving certificate from Lucille Fandel.



## Southeast Asian Refugees Begin Child Care Careers

When Moun Rith joined the Cambodian Child Care Training Program in September, she spoke little English and had never worked outside of the home. This fall, she begins a job as kindergarten teacher's aide, thanks to a unique training project funded by ORI and carried out by two refugee Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs), two child care agencies, and an area college.

Moun and 27 other Southeast Asian refugees have just graduated from the training program, created to ease the shortage of child care providers in the Southeast Asian communities. According to ORI's Employment and Training Manager Geri Scott, "The lack of reliable, culturally appropriate child care was preventing many parents from entering the workplace and becoming self-sufficient. So we developed a program to give them the skills needed to become child care providers."

Two MAAs were chosen to manage the program: the Cambodian Community of Massachusetts (CCM) in Chelsea and the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA) in Lowell. ORI awarded \$185,000 in federal grants and provided the initial administration, and the MAAs took over the project management once contracts were signed. Wheelock College provided academic instruction in child growth and development, curriculum and nutrition. Two child care resource agencies offered technical expertise and coordinated internships at day care centers that gave valuable hands-on experience caring for children. The Child Care Resource Center in Cambridge worked on the Chelsea project, while Community Teamwork, Inc. assisted in Lowell.

The intensive program ran from September of 1988 until this past June. Students attended classes and worked as interns for approximately 20 hours per week. And their hard work has paid off in a big way. Chelsea's ten graduates are certified child care teachers, and Lowell graduated 18



*ORI Director Daniel Lam congratulates Child Care Training graduate.*

qualified teacher's aides who are certified in first aid.

According to Sherrie Vigeant, Lowell's program coordinator from Community Teamwork Inc., "These graduates have accomplished a great deal. Some are single parents, and many had to overcome severe personal obstacles to continue on with the program. They showed a real sense of commitment."

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*Their hard work has paid off.  
Chelsea's 10 graduates are  
certified child care teachers,  
and Lowell graduated 18  
teacher's aides.*

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The immediate benefits of the child care training program are many. The graduates, many of whom were receiving public assistance and had never worked outside of the home, now have job skills which are in high demand. The Southeast Asian communities of Chelsea and Lowell have a new group of well-trained, qualified child care specialists, enabling dozens of parents to take jobs confident that their children are in good hands. And two quality curricula will be produced: one for vocational English as a second language and another for child growth and development, which will be printed in Khmer.

The child care training program produced some long-term benefits as well. The MAAs, by making these very important connections to established institutions, not only improve their capacity to serve, but also gain credibility and experience that will allow them to seek out and effectively manage grants from other funding sources. And the program will serve as a strong model for bringing different entities together to achieve a common goal.

"ORI has a strong commitment to the empowerment of MAAs," says ORI's Geri Scott. "That's why the money went directly to the MAAs, and not to the counties or cities in which they're located. This project is a good example of a carefully planned, measurable success. This kind of progress might seem to take a long time, but these graduates are taking big steps. We could even say they are making history."

### A Special Thanks

ORI would like to thank its 1989 summer interns for their hard work and dedication. Best wishes to Gina Cianciola, Libby Jewett, Leigh Ann Orr, J. Shiao, Alexandra Ungar and Jesse Yuan.



## Immigrant Unit Builds Common Ground, Supports Diversity

Doralba Muñoz learned firsthand about the difficulties immigrants face in a new land when she and her family left Cuba as refugees to come to the United States in 1968. Some 21 years later, Muñoz has come full circle. As ORI's Assistant Director for Immigrant Programs, she now oversees some of the state's most important efforts to help newcomers.

One of the unit's first tasks was to encourage undocumented immigrants to take advantage of the amnesty program set up by the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA), and that outreach has continued into the program's second phase. (See related story, page one.) "But our mandate goes one step beyond IRCA," explains Muñoz. "We serve all immigrants, including those who have already become legal residents or naturalized citizens."

It is a large and diverse community with people from virtually every country in the world. "Every year about 15,000 new immigrants are legally admitted to Massachusetts," says Muñoz. "That's almost five times the number of refugees who come to the state every year. And there may be as many as 100,000 undocumented immigrants in Greater Boston alone."

"To determine where the gaps are in public service to these newcomers,

we're conducting an extensive needs assessment of refugee and immigrant communities," notes Muñoz. "We're also developing a statewide information and referral directory, a citizenship education program, and a counseling service. One of our most exciting new initiatives is the Refugee and Immigrant Women's Forum series. And we're always looking for new ways to obtain federal reimbursement for other state agencies who serve amnesty applicants."

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*"Our mandate goes one step beyond IRCA. We serve all immigrants."*

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Muñoz is no stranger to the state's newcomer communities. She took over as head of the Immigrant Unit in January, after serving as ORI's manager for cash and medical assistance. Before joining ORI, she was program manager at the Department of Public Health, where she co-developed and supervised the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program for Southeast Asians. Before that, she managed some of Boston's first lead poisoning cases among refugee and immigrant children as coordinator of the city's childhood lead poisoning prevention program.

Whatever project Muñoz is working on, she tries to find common ground among immigrant groups, while still supporting and respecting each group's ethnic identity. "When I first came to the United States, I found out how hard it can be to start over and begin making contributions in the issues you care about. Today, my job is to help immigrants regain their self-sufficiency and to offer support while they make things happen."



*The Immigrant Programs Unit: Steve Benson, Wendy Swart, Doralba Muñoz, Catherine Dolan and Janet Fichman.*

## Resources

### Publication Available

ORI recently published *State Services for Immigrants and Refugees: A Guide for Agency Workers*. This guide identifies government programs available to Massachusetts immigrants and refugees, discusses who is eligible for benefits, and outlines the rules and regulations governing eligibility. For a free copy, call Carol Springer at (617) 727-7888.

### Women's Forum

The second Women's Forum will take place on Monday, July 24 at Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown. It will address health and mental health issues of special concern to refugee and immigrant women. Admission is free of charge, but space is limited. Call Steve Benson at (617) 727-7888 to reserve a spot.

### Conference Rooms

Community groups are welcome to use ORI's conference rooms for meetings. To reserve a room, which can accommodate from two to 40 people, contact Janice Mercier at (617) 727-7888.

### Amnesty Hot Lines and Flyers

ORI has established toll-free hot lines in six languages that provide pre-recorded information about Phase II of the amnesty program and services available to applicants:

English	1-800-521-9400
Haitian Creole	1-800-521-9401
Cantonese	1-800-521-9402
Spanish	1-800-521-9404
Polish	1-800-521-9405
Portuguese	1-800-521-9407

ORI has also prepared informational flyers in all six languages that list these hot line numbers and alert amnesty applicants to the requirements of Phase II. For bulk copies of the flyer, call Anne Noonan at (617) 727-7888.



## Refugee Groups Awarded \$189,000

Grants of \$21,000 each were awarded in May to nine refugee self-help organizations in Massachusetts. The organizations, known as Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs), will use the funds for professional development or to address unmet needs in the communities they serve.

According to Debbie Tom, ORI's Community Development Manager, "The MAAs are often the first place

refugees go for help. In order to continue helping newcomers, they must continue to improve their administrative skills and programs." Approximately 30,000 refugees have been admitted to Massachusetts in the past 15 years.

The nine organizations that received the grants are as follows: The Cambodian Community of Massachusetts in Chelsea; Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Lowell; Cambridge Haitian

American Association; Ethiopian Family Center in Boston; Laotian American Organization of Greater Lowell; Laotian American Cultural Association in Boston; League of Haitian Families in Boston; Vietnamese American Civic Association in Dorchester, and Vietnamese Community Development in Lawrence.

### Twenty-Four Largest Immigrant Groups Admitted to Massachusetts \* 1983 to 1988

Vietnam	6,931	Iran	1,787
Portugal	6,414	Laos	1,744
Cambodia	6,176	Poland	1,669
Dominican Rep.	6,041	Ireland	1,567
Mainland China	5,532	Colombia	1,484
Haiti	5,178	Taiwan	1,449
India	3,347	Hong Kong	1,419
United Kingdom	3,201	Lebanon	1,396
Jamaica	3,174	Phillipines	1,393
Cape Verde	2,689	Thailand	1,338
Korea	2,657	Greece	1,292
Canada	2,282	Sov. Union	1,251

\* Total immigrants admitted from 1983 - 1988: 91,035.  
Figures do not include undocumented immigrants, secondary migrants or persons admitted as refugees.

Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service

### NEW ROOTS

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Executive Editor  
**Anne E. Noonan**  
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**Carol Springer**  
Illustrator

The Office for Refugees and Immigrants supports programs for refugees and immigrants, acts as their public advocate and coordinates state services for them.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Michael S. Dukakis**  
Governor  
**Phillip W. Johnston**  
Secretary  
Executive Office of Human Services  
**Daniel Lam**  
Director  
Office for Refugees and Immigrants

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*Office for Refugees and Immigrants*  
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# New Roots



Spring 1990

Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI)

Vol. 2 No. 4

## Legislature Urged to Protect Bilingual Education Laws

A group of state officials and community leaders recently called on the Legislature to reject a set of bills that would abolish or curtail the state's transitional bilingual education law.

"This legislation would hurt, not help, efforts to teach English to the 25,000 students enrolled in bilingual education programs in Massachusetts," said Daniel Lam, then-Director of ORI.

Lam spoke at a hearing in March on H. 326, which would abolish the state's bilingual education law, and H. 4736, which seeks to make the program an option of each local school committee. The first was sponsored by Representative William Glodis of Worcester; the second by Representative Marilyn Travinski of Southbridge.

Lam was joined by Education Commissioner Harold Reynolds, Jr., Representative Nelson Merced of Dorchester, members of the Massachusetts English Plus Coalition and other community leaders.

"Bilingual education is a way for students to keep up in other subjects until they speak and understand English well enough to transfer into a standard classroom," said Lam. "Almost 92 percent of students in bilingual classes finish the program within three years. And, studies show that developing literacy in a native language ensures literacy in a second language."

Students who use a language other than English as their first language make up 10 percent of the population in Massachusetts elementary and high schools.

## New State Program Puts Southeast Asian Educators Back at the Head of the Class

Scores of Southeast Asian educators may soon become certified to teach in Massachusetts schools, thanks to a state program that began operations in December. Created by ORI and the state Department of Education, the project allows the foreign-born teachers to receive credit for college degrees or other academic work done overseas.

"Massachusetts needs bilingual teachers who speak Southeast Asian languages," says Dang Pham, ORI's Education Programs Manager. "Almost 9,000 students in the state's elementary and high schools use Khmer, Vietnamese or Lao — not English — as their first language. But few Southeast Asians who were educators in their own countries become certified teachers here, largely because they can't document their own education. Most academic records were destroyed in the region's wars."

"Previously, all we could do was temporarily waive the certification requirement for these teachers," says Ernie Mazzone, Director of the Office of Teacher Recruitment at the Department of Education. "But they had no job security and had to earn a college degree all over again, all while teaching full-time. Most quit in frustration. Through this program, the teachers can get credit for the academic work they've already done, and at the same time can help relieve the state's shortage of bilingual educators."

The program resulted from a recommendation by the Education Task Force of the Governor's Advisory Council on Refugees and Immigrants, which studied a similar process used in Florida

in the 1960s to help Cuban refugees. A committee of experts on Southeast Asian education interviews the candidates, evaluates their backgrounds and reviews any documentation that might exist. If the committee judges that the applicant did attend college or earn a degree overseas, this finding will be accepted by the Bureau of Teacher Certification at the Department of Education. More than 100 other Southeast Asians — 75 Cambodians, 25 Vietnamese and 15 Laotians — are expected to apply to the program this year.

"Teachers in Southeast Asia are highly respected, and it's very hard for them to be here wasting their talents in service industry jobs," says Pham. "Through this program they can preserve their professional integrity, serve as role models for the Southeast Asian kids in our schools — all while providing a badly needed service for the community."



Phuc Nguyen, a teacher at Brighton High in Boston, appeared before the committee to earn credit for a lost transcript.



## Lam Leaves ORI, Looks Back on Seven Years of Progress



Former ORI Director Daniel M. Lam

Only a decade ago, there were few targeted programs for refugees and immigrants in Massachusetts, much less a central place in government where they could turn for help.

Today the picture looks dramatically different. There are a host of federal grants and state services for newcomers, all coordinated under one roof at ORI, an agency within the Executive Office of Human Services (EOHS).

According to Daniel Lam, who left state service in March seven years after he became the first director of ORI, this centralization of services was one of his most important accomplishments at the agency. Like many of his other achievements at ORI, it grew out of recommendations made to Governor Dukakis by advocates in the field of newcomer service. "In fact," says Lam, "a great deal of what the state does for refugees and immigrants is a result of recommendations made by those who work directly with them."

As examples, Lam cites the comprehensive interagency Refugee Service Plan published in 1986, the creation of the Governor's Advisory Council on Refugees and Immigrants (GAC), the extension of state services to non-refugee immigrant groups, and the gains in making mainstream programs culturally and linguistically accessible to newcomers.

"I think this is an interesting, and far too uncommon, way of doing business,"

Lam says. "Frequently, there's already a system in place and we run around trying to adapt it to the needs of the people. In this case, people told us what kind of system they wanted and we worked with them to make it happen."

In his seven years working with the Commonwealth's newcomers, Lam has witnessed and been part of many service milestones. "Federal legislation, such as the Refugee Act and the Immigration Reform and Control Act, certainly changed the national scene," he says, "but equally important are the things that happened on the state level."

As one example of this, Lam points to

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*"People told us what kind of system they wanted and we worked with them to make it happen."*

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the transfer of the refugee cash assistance program from the Department of Public Welfare back to EOHS. "Resettlement is a humanitarian issue, not a welfare issue," he says. "It is built on the assumption of temporary, transitional services. Refugees are usually people who were once financially independent, but were uprooted by war, persecution or other conditions. Being a refugee myself, I know that newcomers don't need to be given self-sufficiency, just some help regaining what they once had."

Another initiative of which Lam is especially proud is ORI's commitment to the Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs). Created in the early 1980s, MAAs are community service agencies run by and for refugees. ORI provided many groups with both start-up funds and help getting incorporated as non-profit groups, and is now funding management training efforts at many of the sites.

"The MAAs show that refugees are more than capable of leading their own

communities. In the long run, it's better to help them build on those leadership skills than to just advocate for services for them," he says. "It reminds me of the saying that if you teach people to fish, they eat for a lifetime."

"I'm also proud of the community education we've done," he says. "How newcomers are received into their new communities is a very important factor in their resettlement. And, I'm excited about ORI's new citizenship education project which will help newcomers learn how to become citizens, and how to participate fully once they have achieved that status."

"The 1990s are going to be a real challenge, and further progress will not come easily. The new GAC, headed by Jim Aldrich, has its work cut out for it. It's now working hard to develop recommendations to the next governor in key areas such as education, housing, civil rights, human services, and so forth. The GAC has played an important role in building the improved service system of the 1980s, and I'm confident its current members will do the same for the next decade."

### Inside ORI

Farewell to Daniel Lam, our founding Director. He will be missed by everyone here at ORI. Welcome to Regina Lee who has joined us as Legal Counsel. Thanks and best wishes to our volunteer college interns: Cynthia Garcia, Susan Gradman, John Griffin and Linda Sansevero. A special thanks to Huong Nguyen and Dora Pineda who each spent a month with us as part of the One With One, Inc. office training program.



## Boston's League of Haitian Families Builds Bridges to Opportunity

As Executive Director of the League of Haitian Families in Boston, Guy Laurent has seen scores of clients walk through the door of his agency. He smiles when he speaks of one, a Haitian woman from Harvard, Massachusetts, who came to the League to learn English.

"Haitian Creole was her first language, of course, and although she had been in the United States for five years, she had never learned a word of English," Laurent says. "Luckily, she lived with a French family and, like many Haitians, she also spoke French and was able to communicate with them."

Laurent hastens to add that this client is not typical of those served by the agency. "Most want to learn English immediately as a key to survival," he says. And helping people survive is what the League does best, through referrals and direct service to many of the estimated 50,000 Haitians living in Massachusetts. Although most clients hail from Greater Boston, some come from as far as Framingham, Worcester and even southern New Hampshire.

The League helps clients to secure the basics like food and shelter and provides instruction in all levels of the English language. It offers employment services, victim assistance, immigration counseling, youth programs and workshops for parents. "We try to provide whatever our people ask us for," says Laurent.

The agency has a full-time staff of five and a handful of teachers on contract. Its funding comes from both private and public sources, including grants from ORI and the state departments of Social Services and Education. With its Mutual Assistance Association (MAA) grant from ORI, the League has conducted staff training in administrative and fiscal matters. "Our priority is direct service to our clients," says Laurent, "but we need to build on our management skills, so we can continue providing these services beyond today

and next week."

The League places a special emphasis on Haitian youth and their families. "Young Haitians are caught between two cultures," says Laurent. "They're often in conflict with their parents and don't get the help they need in school. In Haiti, it's easier for parents and other adults to be involved in the education of children, and this can be a difficult adjustment."

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*"The key is to keep Haitian culture alive and at the same time make contributions to this country."*

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Recognizing this, the League has created weekend and summer programs for kids, and Sunday afternoon workshops for parents on issues such as drugs, higher education choices and bicultural awareness. Many of the programs are led by Haitians who are professionals in the fields being discussed.

"In all of our programs, we're trying to build bridges between the Haitian and American cultures," says Laurent. "It's important for people to feel proud of being Haitian," he says, "but the key is to keep Haitian culture alive and at the same time make contributions to this country."

### Local Armenians Mark Genocide Anniversary

Local Armenians noted the 75th anniversary of the Armenian genocide with a State House memorial service on Friday, April 20. The event was sponsored by the office of House Speaker George Keverian, the Knights of Vartan and Armenian community leaders.

## Resources

### Hot Lines

*The Latino Health Network* provides AIDS information in Spanish and English. Call (617) 262-7248.

*Boston Mayor's Health Line* provides information and referral to health care providers and residents of Massachusetts. Call (617) 534-5050.

### Publications

*AIDS Services in the Boston Area Latino Community* lists nearly 40 agencies that provide counseling, education and referral services. Available free from the Latino Health Network, (617) 262-7248.

*A Pro-Family, Pro-Growth Legal Immigration Policy for America* analyzes the economic and social impact of newcomers and argues that the U.S. should adopt less restrictive immigration laws. Send \$2 to the Heritage Foundation, Publications Office, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002, or call (202) 546-4400.

*Employer's Sanctions and Job Discrimination in Massachusetts* examines the effects of the 1986 federal immigration reform and concludes that it has resulted in widespread discrimination against Massachusetts job applicants who look or sound foreign. Send \$3 to MIRA, 178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02110, or call (617) 357-6000, ext. 229.

*Southeast Asian Refugees in Western Massachusetts: Seen But Not Heard* describes the resettlement and adjustment of Khmer, Hmong, Lao and Vietnamese refugees in the four western counties of the state. Send \$10 to the Asian Studies Program, International Area Studies, 73 Bartlett Hall, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA 01003, or call (413) 545-0778.

## ORI's Information and Referral Service Finds the Answers

What percentage of immigrants admitted to Massachusetts are from the Caribbean, and what languages do they speak? How can someone sponsor a family member in Ireland to come live in the United States? What immunizations must children have before attending school? How can people retain their legal status?

These are just a few of the questions asked by recent callers to ORI's information and referral team of Wendy Swart and Judith Whitmarsh. In the

first year of operation, Swart and Whitmarsh have handled hundreds of callers who need help with everything from immigration status and INS procedures to employment, housing, cash assistance and education.

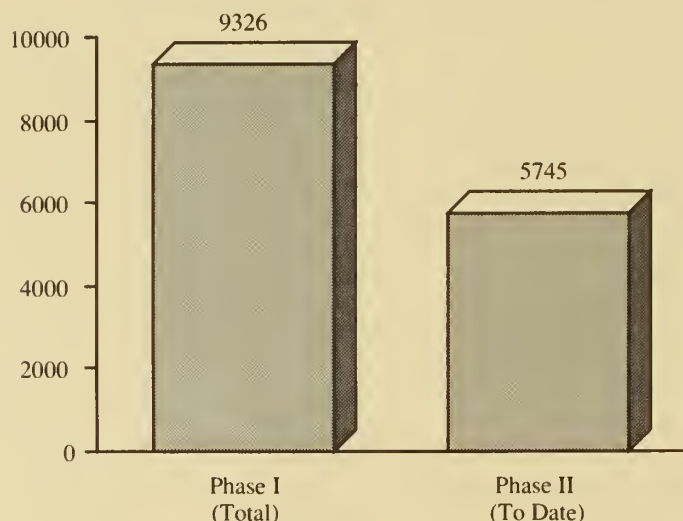
"By the time people reach us, they've often made several phone calls already and are about ready to give up," says Swart. "So the best service we can provide is an on-the-spot answer. Sometimes even we don't have the answer, but we do have

the contacts. We can put the caller in touch with the experts at other state offices or human service agencies."

"We also do follow-up to see if callers have solved their original problems," adds Whitmarsh. "Many times, we find that they now need help with new issues and we try to assist them with those, too."

ORI's information and referral service is available Monday - Friday, 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. Call (617) 727-7888.

### Amnesty for Undocumented Immigrants Applications Filed in Massachusetts



Source: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

#### NEW ROOTS

**Herbert McClure Prichard**

Executive Editor

**Anne E. Noonan**

Editor

**Carol Springer**

Illustrator

The Office for Refugees and Immigrants supports programs for refugees and immigrants, acts as their public advocate, and coordinates state services for them.

#### Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Michael S. Dukakis**

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**Philip W. Johnston**

Secretary

Executive Office of Human Services

**David E. Rosenberg**

Acting Director

Office for Refugees and Immigrants

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*Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants*  
2 Boylston St., 2nd Floor  
Boston, MA 02116



# New Roots



Summer 1990

Massachusetts Office for Refugees and Immigrants (ORI)

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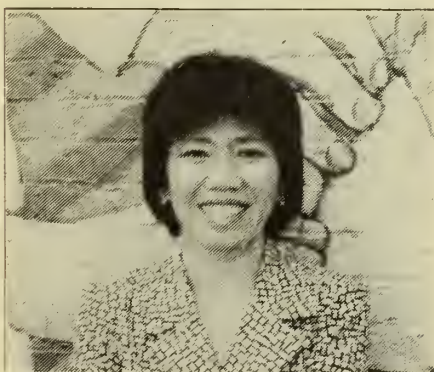
## Regina Lee Named New ORI Director

Governor Michael Dukakis recently appointed Regina Lee as Director of ORI.

"Regina Lee has spent her professional life advocating for refugees and immigrants and will provide the state's Office for Refugees and Immigrants with progressive and aggressive leadership," said Governor Dukakis. "This appointment is wonderful news for the Commonwealth's newcomers."

"I feel privileged to receive this appointment," said Lee. "During the last seven years Massachusetts has built one of the best state programs for refugees and immigrants in the country."

Lee is an immigrant from China who has almost 20 years of professional experience as an attorney, educator and manager. Most recently she served as legal counsel to ORI, and before joining the staff was Executive Director of the Asian Community Development Corporation of Boston. She received a B.A. from New York University and a J.D. from New York University Law School.



Regina Lee became ORI's Director on April 1.

## New State Study Finds Immigrants and Refugees Give More Than They Get

A study recently released by ORI has concluded that refugees and immigrants in Massachusetts pay more in taxes than they use in public services.

"We hope that this report will put to rest once and for all the myth that newcomers to the United States are more likely to use welfare and other public services than native-born Americans," says ORI Director Regina Lee. "Our research found that the exact opposite is true. In one state, for example, only five percent of immigrants surveyed received welfare benefits or other social services while more than 70 percent paid income taxes."

"Newcomers put hundreds of millions of dollars into our state treasury," adds Lee. "Like anyone born here, refugees and immigrants pay income tax as well as sales tax, cigarette and gasoline taxes and other fees."

ORI issued a preliminary version of the study earlier this month entitled *Through the Golden Door: Impacts of Non-Citizen Residents on the Commonwealth*. It was prepared at the request of the Massachusetts Legislature because of pending legislation that restricts the use of public services by non-citizens.

"Our report shows that such restrictions are impractical and will lead to discrimination against citizens and other legal residents, especially those who look or sound 'foreign'," says Lee. "Some of the restrictions, such as those in the areas of public health and education, would prove dangerous and costly to society in the long run. And we found that the state's authority to limit

services is prohibited by federal law."

"The study also confirms that newcomers are good for our state and national economy," says Lee. "We collected information from institutions as diverse as the *Wall Street Journal*, the Heritage Foundation and the University of California at Berkeley.

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*Refugees and immigrants promote demand for goods and services, keep certain industries competitive, and help increase the income levels and number of jobs for native workers.*

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"They all agreed that refugees and immigrants make significant contributions to the economy at all levels," says Lee. "Newcomers are successfully absorbed in the labor market, increase the demand for goods and services and keep certain industries competitive. They also help increase the number of jobs and income levels for native workers."

For a free copy of *Through the Golden Door: Impacts of Non-Citizen Residents on the Commonwealth*, write or call Carol Springer, Office for Refugees and Immigrants, Two Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116 (617) 727-7888.



## Polish-Americans Challenged, Strengthened by Diversity

One misconception about immigration is that all newcomers from one given country speak the same language and have the same needs and values. Yet, more often than not, there is a great deal of diversity within immigrant groups, especially those whose members have settled in several different waves.

There is no better example than the Commonwealth's Polish immigrants, some of whom settled here at the turn of the century while others have arrived as recently as this past spring.

One organization serving these immigrants is the Polish Social Cultural Association (PSCA) in South Boston. Formed in 1986 to meet the cultural needs of the community, PSCA has evolved into a busy multi-service center.

According to Barbara Przybylska who, with Wieslawa (Wendy) Lauser, manages the PSCA, "Our community's diversity presents us with a real challenge. Many of the new arrivals are struggling to learn English, while those who came here as children or were born here no longer use Polish as their primary language. They all remember a very different Poland, and have arrived with different skills and values."

In its first years of operation, PSCA ran lectures, dances and other social

events at St. Mary/Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. In talking with people at these events, however, staff realized there were other unmet needs in the community, ranging from immigration counseling and jobs to housing and health care.

With a Gateway Cities grant from the City of Boston, PSCA staff set out to meet some of these needs. They set up information and referral, translation, and advocacy services, as well as classes in English as a second language and youth activities. "But then the Gateway Cities program was eliminated, and we went without funding for

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*Preserving Polish culture, and especially the language, remains an important goal.*

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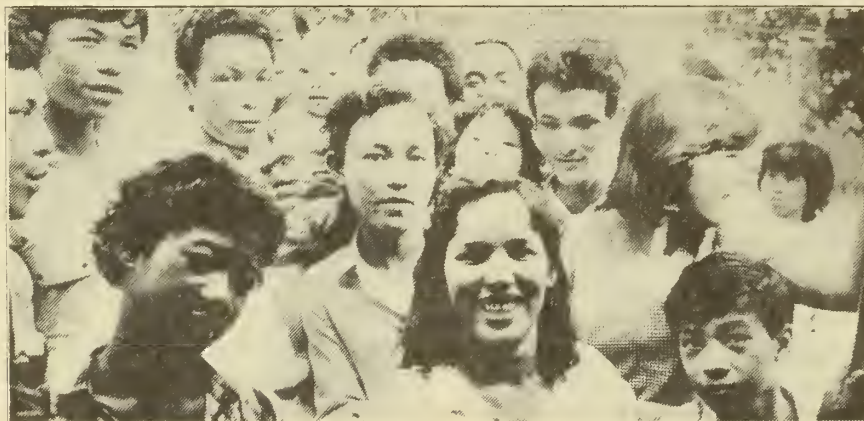
four months," says Lauser, who is also a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Refugees and Immigrants. "Barbara and I worked as volunteers and did some fund-raising, and we were able to keep all of our programs up and running," she says. "But we knew that couldn't last forever. So we applied for, and received, a grant from ORI which

allowed us to re-establish regular office hours and continue our work." The ORI grant also paid for a needs assessment of the Polish community. Some 1,300 questionnaires were distributed containing questions on job satisfaction, language spoken at home, and education level.

Preserving Polish culture, and especially the language, remains an important goal. PSCA runs a bilingual, bicultural program, known as the Polish Supplementary School, for children aged 6 to 14. This past school year, 39 children attended one of three classes held each Saturday. Staff also conduct informational seminars on weeknights and Sundays, after Polish-language church services at St. Mary's. Recent topics have included immigration law, investment fraud, and how to look for a job. PSCA continues to run social programs such as lectures and dances, and is planning its fourth annual festival of Polish arts and culture, to be held on Boston's waterfront in August.

"Our attempts to build a strong community tend to be stifled by the language barriers within the community," says Przybylska. "So we make sure that all meetings, lectures and printed materials are in both Polish and English. That way, even if people don't want to attend a certain event, at least they know what's going on in the community. And that helps to strengthen the bond among us."

### Library to Exhibit Photos of Amerasians



"Amerasians in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), 1989," is one of 30 photos in *Ngoc I Was — Pearl I Am*, an exhibit by Hien Duc Tran about Amerasians in Vietnam and Boston. The exhibit will be on display at the Boston Public Library in August. For more information call Peter Kiang, (617) 287-5856.

### Inside ORI

Farewell and best wishes to Mac Prichard who is leaving ORI to attend Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Welcome to ORI's volunteer interns: Zoraida DeFreitas, Boston College; David Spielman, Tufts University; Dong Suh, Kennedy School of Government, and Daniel Wallace, a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts in Boston.



## Debbie Tom: ORI's Community Development Specialist



Debbie Tom in her office at ORI.

As ORI's community development manager, Debbie Tom works on behalf of more than 30,000 refugees who have been resettled in Massachusetts. She joined ORI in early 1988, having served the same number of refugees in California's San Joaquin Valley — an area roughly the size of Massachusetts.

"But the similarities stop there," says Tom. "Two-thirds of the California refugees were Hmong from Laos, whereas in Massachusetts most are from Cambodia and Vietnam, and our recent arrivals come mainly from the Soviet Union."

Tom joined ORI to help fulfill the agency's commitment to build service organizations, run by and for refugees, known as Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs). Thanks to ORI's support, MAAs have sprung up in numerous communities in Massachusetts; there are groups that serve Cambodians, Ethiopians, Haitians, Laotians, Vietnamese and others.

"The MAAs were formed because in the early 1980s the system just could not handle the special needs of the Southeast Asians who had come to the state," says Tom. "The MAAs were a very important bridge between the communities and those who provide services. Now, with reduced funding in

almost all areas of government, and a new and growing gap in services, the MAAs need to provide more services. This is a real challenge, because many of the MAAs are less than five years old, and are all at different points in the growth process. Some groups, like the Hmong, have made an enormous leap, from an agricultural society to a highly technological one," she says.

In addition to her work with the MAAs, Tom manages the federal Unaccompanied Refugee Minor Program (URMP) which is operated through the state Department of Social Services. "In Massachusetts, there are over 100 kids — some as young as eight or nine — who have arrived as refugees in the United States without parents or other adult relatives," she says. "The children are from many different countries, and through URMP they are placed in foster homes. It's a tough job caring for these kids — many have health problems and have had their education interrupted. But the providers really make sure that placements are good, and many of the foster families treat the kids as if they were their own. These families are the ones who make the program work."

Tom serves as ORI's liaison to the Amerasian Work Group which consists of service providers and Vietnamese community leaders who are developing culturally appropriate services for the children of Vietnamese women and American servicemen. She also facilitates communication between state agencies and a nearly 20 voluntary agencies, known as VOLAGs, that resettle refugees in communities across Massachusetts.

For Tom, the daughter of Chinese immigrants, work with newcomers has special meaning. "I have been involved with refugees for over a decade," she says. "I've always wanted to work in and for the Asian community. I'm able to do that at ORI, where I not only help my community, but all newcomers."

## Resources

*Asian Pacific Americans* is a handbook for journalists and others that contains demographic data, information on proper use of Asian Pacific names, and tips on avoiding stereotypes. Send \$5 to the National Conference of Christians and Jews, 635 South Harvard Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90005 (213) 385-0491.

*The Effects of Immigration on the Labor Market Outcomes of Natives* is available from the National Bureau of Economic Research. Send \$2 to Working Papers, NBER, 1050 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138.

*Employer Sanctions and Immigration Raids: Protect Yourself and Your Employees* explains how to comply with the employer regulations of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Call Teresa Turvey at Centro Presente, (617) 497-9080. A small fee may be requested to cover postage.

*The Implementation of the Refugee Act of 1980: A Decade of Experience* examines the asylum process and recommends new guidelines. Send \$8 to the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 330 Seventh Avenue, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10001 (212) 629-6170.

*Multicultural Populations Resource Directory* lists agencies in Massachusetts that serve immigrants and refugees. Information is arranged alphabetically, as well as by region, service and language. Call Efrain Fuentes, Department of Mental Health, (617) 727-8646.

*Reasonable Fear: Human Rights and United States Refugee Policy* documents patterns of bias in the treatment of asylum seekers from particular countries. Send \$6 to Amnesty International USA, Publications Office, 322 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10001.

## ORI Campaign Helps Amnesty Applicants Take Second Step

"Attention immigrants! If you became legalized under the recent federal amnesty program, you must file a second application in order to make your status permanent. If you do nothing, you could lose your legal status."

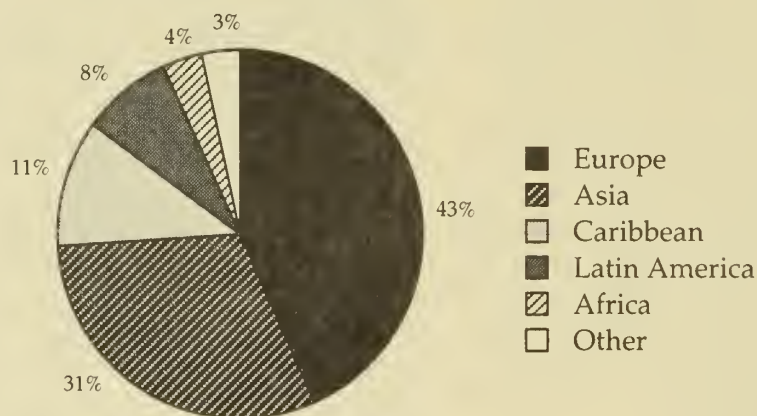
That is the main message of ORI's outreach campaign to encourage the 15,000 amnesty applicants in Massachusetts to participate in Phase II of the program. This spring, ORI released radio public service announcements and

newspaper advertisements in several different languages to hundreds of media outlets across the state. Staff have also hung posters on subway cars in greater Boston and have distributed multilingual bookmarks to public libraries in cities and towns with large numbers of newcomers.

ORI began its Phase II outreach last summer by hooking up pre-recorded informational hot lines in Cantonese, English, Haitian Creole, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish, and by distributing

thousands of flyers in those languages to hundreds of community agencies. According to Anne Noonan, ORI's outreach coordinator, "The hot lines are the key to all our outreach efforts because they list the community agencies that can help people meet the requirements of Phase II. They're also the most successful part of the program. So far, we've received over 9,000 calls, and we expect that number to keep climbing."

**Persons Naturalized in Massachusetts  
by Region of Origin  
1983 — 1989**



Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)

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